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**PART I  
ELECTRICAL**

**WAC 296-155-426 Introduction.** This part addresses electrical safety requirements that are necessary for the practical safeguarding of employees involved in construction work and is divided into four major divisions and applicable definitions as follows:

- (1) Introduction and definitions. Definitions applicable to this part are contained in WAC 296-155-462.
- (2) Installation safety requirements. Installation safety requirements are contained in WAC 296-155-441 through 296-155-459. Included in this category are electric equipment and installations used to provide electric power and light on jobsites.
- (3) Safety-related work practices. Safety-related work practices are contained in WAC 296-155-428 and 296-155-429. In addition to covering the hazards arising from the use of electricity at jobsites, these regulations also cover the hazards arising from the accidental contact, direct or indirect, by employees with all energized lines, above or below ground, passing through or near the jobsite.
- (4) Safety-related maintenance and environmental considerations. Safety-related maintenance and environmental considerations are contained in WAC 296-155-432 and 296-155-434.
- (5) Safety requirements for special equipment. Safety requirements for special equipment are contained in WAC 296-155-437.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-426, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-428 General requirements.**

- (1) Protection of employees.
  - (a) No employer shall permit an employee to work in such proximity to any part of an electric power circuit that the employee could contact the electric power circuit in the course of work, unless the employee is protected against electric shock by de-energizing the circuit and grounding it or by guarding it effectively by insulation or other means.
  - (b) No person, firm, corporation, or agent of same, shall require or permit any employee to perform any function in proximity to electrical conductors or to engage in any excavation, construction, demolition, repair, or other operation, unless and until danger from accidental contact with said electrical conductors has been effectively guarded by de-energizing the circuit and grounding it or by guarding it by effective insulation or other effective means.
  - (c) In work areas where the exact location of underground electric powerlines is unknown, no activity which may bring employees into contact with those powerlines shall begin until the powerlines have been positively and unmistakably de-energized and grounded.
  - (d) Before work is begun the employer shall ascertain by inquiry or direct observation, or by instruments, whether any part of an energized electric power circuit, exposed or concealed, is so located that the performance of the work may bring any person, tool, or machine into physical or electrical contact with the electric power circuit. The employer shall post and maintain proper warning signs where such a circuit exists. The employer shall advise employees of the location of such lines, the hazards involved, and the protective measures to be taken.

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**WAC 296-155-428 (Cont.)**

- (e) No work shall be performed, no material shall be piled, stored or otherwise handled, no scaffolding, commercial signs, or structures shall be erected or dismantled, nor any tools, machinery or equipment operated within the specified minimum distances from any energized high voltage electrical conductor capable of energizing the material or equipment; except where the electrical distribution and transmission lines have been de-energized and visibly grounded at point of work, or where insulating barriers not a part of or an attachment to the equipment have been erected, to prevent physical contact with the lines, equipment shall be operated proximate to, under, over, by, or near energized conductors only in accordance with the following:
  - (i) For lines rated 50 kV. or below, minimum clearance between the lines and any part of the equipment or load shall be ten feet.
  - (ii) For lines rated over 50 kV. minimum, clearance between the lines and any part of the equipment or load shall be ten feet plus 0.4 inch or each 1 kV. over 50 kV., or twice the length of the line insulator but never less than ten feet.
- (f) Work on energized equipment. Only qualified persons shall work on electric circuit parts of equipment that have not been deenergized under the procedures of WAC 296-155-429(4). Such persons shall be capable of working safely on energized circuits and shall be familiar with the proper use of special precautionary techniques, personal protective equipment, insulating and shielding materials, and insulated tools.
- (g) Overhead electric lines. Where overhead electric conductors are encountered in proximity to a work area, the employer shall be responsible for:
  - (i) Ascertaining the voltage and minimum clearance distance required; and
  - (ii) Maintaining the minimum clearance distance; and
  - (iii) Ensuring that the requirements of this section are complied with.
- (h) If relocation of the electrical conductors is necessary, arrangements shall be made with the owners of the lines for such relocation.
- (i) Barriers.
  - (i) Barriers shall be of such character and construction as to effectively provide the necessary protection without creating other hazards or jeopardizing the operation of the electrical circuits.
  - (ii) Barriers installed within the ten feet clearance from conductors shall be installed only under the supervision of authorized and qualified persons and this shall include a representative of the electrical utility or owner involved.
- (j) Exceptions.
  - (i) These rules do not apply to the construction, reconstruction, operation, and maintenance, of overhead electrical lines, structures, and associated equipment by authorized and qualified electrical workers.

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**WAC 296-155-428 (Cont.)**

- (ii) These rules do not apply to authorized and qualified employees engaged in the construction, reconstruction, operation, and maintenance, of overhead electrical circuits or conductors and associated equipment of rail transportation systems or electrical generating, transmission, distribution and communication systems which are covered by chapters 296-45 and 296-32 WAC.
  - (k) Special precautions must be taken.
    - (i) When handling any winch lines, guy wires, or other free cable, wire or rope in the vicinity of any electrical conductors.
    - (ii) When pulling a winch line, or other cable or rope under energized electrical conductors from a boom, mast, pile driver, etc., in such a manner as to make possible an approach to within ten feet of a conductor.
    - (iii) When there is possibility of a winch line, cable, etc., either becoming disconnected or breaking under load because of excessive strain and flipping up into overhead conductors.
    - (iv) When placing steel, concrete reinforcement, wire mesh, etc.
    - (v) When handling pipe or rod sections in connection with digging wells or test holes.
    - (vi) When moving construction equipment, apparatus, machinery, etc., all such movements must avoid striking supporting structures, guy wires, or other elements of the electrical utility system causing the conductors to so swing or move as to decrease clearances to less than ten feet from construction equipment, or to cause them to come together.
  - (l) Warning sign required.
    - (i) An approved durable warning sign legible at twelve feet, reading "It is unlawful to operate this equipment within ten feet of electrical conductors" shall be posted and maintained in plain view of the operator at the controls of each crane, derrick, shovel, drilling rig, pile driver or similar apparatus which is capable of vertical, lateral or swinging motion.
    - (ii) A similar sign shall be installed on the outside of the equipment and located as to be readily visible to mechanics or other persons engaged in the work operation.
    - (iii) Signs shall be not less than 6" x 8" dimensions with the word "WARNING" or "DANGER" in large letters and painted red across the top and the other letters in black painted on yellow background.
  - (m) Any overhead wire shall be considered to be an energized line until the owner of such line or the electrical utility authorities indicate that it is not an energized line and it has been visibly grounded.
- (2) Passageways and open spaces.
- (a) Barriers or other means of guarding shall be provided to ensure that workspace for electrical equipment will not be used as a passageway during periods when energized parts of electrical equipment are exposed.

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**WAC 296-155-428 (Cont.)**

- (b) Working spaces, walkways, and similar locations shall be kept clear of cords so as not to create a tripping hazard to employees.
- (3) Load ratings. In existing installations, no changes in circuit protection shall be made to increase the load in excess of the load rating of the circuit wiring.
- (4) Fuses. When fuses are installed or removed with one or both terminals energized, special tools insulated for the voltage shall be used.
- (5) Cords and cables.
  - (a) Worn or frayed electric cords or cables shall not be used.
  - (b) Extension cords shall not be fastened with staples, hung from nails, or suspended by wire.
- (6) Interlocks. Only a qualified person following the requirements of this section may defeat an electrical safety interlock, and then only temporarily while they are working on the equipment. The interlock systems shall be returned to its operable condition when this work is completed.
- (7) Portable electric equipment-Handling. Portable equipment shall be handled in a manner which will not cause damage. Flexible electric cords connected to equipment shall not be used for raising or lowering the equipment. Flexible cords shall not be fastened with staples or otherwise hung in such a fashion as could damage the outer jacket or insulation.
- (8) Visual inspection. When an attachment plug is to be connected to a receptacle (including any on a cord set), the relationship of the plug and receptacle contacts shall first be checked to ensure they are of proper mating configurations.
- (9) Connecting attachment plugs.
  - (a) Employees' hands shall not be wet when plugging and unplugging flexible cords and cord-and-plug-connected equipment, if energized equipment is involved.
  - (b) Energized plug and receptacle connections shall be handled only with insulating protective equipment if the condition of the connection could provide a conducting path to the employee's hand (if, for example, a cord connector is wet from being immersed in water).
  - (c) Locking-type connectors shall be properly secured after connection.
- (10) Routine opening and closing circuits. Load rated switches, circuit breakers, or other devices specifically designed as disconnecting means shall be used for the opening, reversing, or closing of circuits under load conditions. Cable connectors not of the load-break type, fuses, terminal lugs, and cable splice connections shall not be used for such purposes, except in an emergency.
- (11) Reclosing circuits after protective device operation. After a circuit is deenergized by a circuit protective device, the circuit shall not be manually reenergized until it has been determined that the equipment and circuit can be safely energized. This repetitive manual reclosing of circuit breakers or reenergizing circuits through replaced fuses is prohibited.

*Note: When it can be determined from the design of the circuit and the overcurrent devices involved that the automatic operation of a device was caused by an overload rather than a fault connection, no examination of the circuit or connected equipment is needed before the circuit is reenergized.*

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**WAC 296-155-428 (Cont.)**

- (12) Test instruments and equipment-Use. Only qualified persons shall perform testing work on electric circuits or equipment.
- (13) Visual inspection. Test instruments and equipment and all associated test leads, cables, power cords, probes, and connectors shall be visually inspected for external defects and damage before the equipment is used. If there is a defect or evidence of damage that might expose an employee to injury, the defective or damaged item shall be removed from service, and no employee shall use it until necessary repairs and tests to render the equipment safe have been made.
- (14) Rating of equipment. Test instruments and equipment and their accessories shall be rated for the circuits and equipment to which they will be connected and shall be designed for the environment in which they will be used.
- (15) Occasional use of flammable or ignitable materials. Where flammable materials are present only occasionally, electric equipment capable of igniting them shall not be used, unless measures are taken to prevent hazardous conditions from developing. Such materials include, but are not limited to: Flammable gases, vapors, or liquids; combustible dust; and ignitable fibers or flyings.
- (16) Work on energized equipment. Only qualified persons shall work on electric circuit parts of equipment that have not been deenergized under the procedures of WAC 296-155-429(4). Such persons shall be capable of working safely on energized circuits and shall be familiar with the proper use of special precautionary techniques, personal protective equipment, insulating and shielding materials, and insulated tools.
- (17) Overhead lines. If work is to be performed near overhead lines, the lines shall be deenergized and grounded, or other protective measures shall be provided before work is started. If the lines are to be deenergized, arrangements shall be made with the person or organization that operates or controls the electric circuits involved to deenergize and ground them. If protective measures, such as guarding, isolating, or insulating, these precautions shall prevent employees from contacting such lines directly with any part of their body or indirectly through conductive materials, tools, or equipment.
- (18) Unqualified persons. When an unqualified person is working in an elevated position, or on the ground, near overhead lines, the location shall be such that the person and the longest conductive object they may contact cannot come closer to any unguarded, energized overhead line than the following distances:
  - (a) For voltages to ground 50kV or below-10 ft.;
  - (b) For voltages to ground over 50kV-10 ft. plus 0.4 inch for every 1kV over 50kV.
- (19) Qualified persons. When a qualified person is working in the vicinity of overhead lines, whether in an elevated position or on the ground, the person shall not approach or take any conductive object without an approved insulating handle closer to exposed energized parts that are shown in subsection (1)(e) of this section unless:
  - (a) The person is insulated from the energized part (gloves, with sleeves if necessary), rated for the voltage involved are considered to be insulation of the person from the energized part on which work is performed; or
  - (b) The energized part is insulated both from all other conductive objects at a different potential and from the person; or

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**WAC 296-155-428 (Cont.)**

- (c) The person is insulated from all conductive objects at a potential different from that of the energized part.
- (20) Vehicular and mechanical equipment.
- (a) Any vehicle or mechanical equipment capable of having parts of its structure elevated near energized overhead lines shall be operated so that a clearance of 10 ft. is maintained. If the voltage is higher than 50kV, the clearance shall be increased 0.4 inch for every 1kV over the voltage. However, under any of the following conditions, the clearance may be reduced:
    - (i) If the vehicle is in transit with its structure lowered, the clearance may be reduced to 4 ft. If the voltage is higher than 50kV, the clearance shall be increased 0.4 inch for every 1kV over that voltage.
    - (ii) If insulating barriers are installed to prevent contact with the lines, and if the barriers are rated for the voltage of the line being guarded and are not a part of or an attachment to the vehicle or its raised structure, the clearance may be reduced to a distance within the designed working dimensions of the insulating barrier.
  - (b) If the equipment is an aerial lift insulated for the voltage involved, and if the work is performed by a qualified person, the clearance (between the uninsulated portion of the aerial lift and the power line) may be reduced to the distance given in (a) through (d) of this subsection.
  - (c) Employees standing on the ground shall not contact the vehicle or mechanical equipment or any of its attachments, unless:
    - (i) The employee is using protective equipment rated for the voltage; or
    - (ii) The equipment is located so that no uninsulated part of its structure (that portion of the structure that provides a conductive path to employees on the ground) can come closer to the line than permitted in this section.
  - (d) If any vehicle or mechanical equipment capable of having parts of its structure elevated near energized overhead lines is of grounding shall not stand at the grounding location whenever there is a possibility of overhead line contact. Additional precautions, such as the use of barricades or insulation, shall be taken to protect employees from hazardous ground potentials, depending on earth resistivity and fault currents, which can develop within the first few feet or more outward from the grounding point.
- (21) Illumination.
- (a) Employees shall not enter spaces containing exposed energized parts, unless illumination is provided that enables the employees to perform the work safely.
  - (b) Where lack of illumination or an obstruction precludes observation of the work to be performed, employees shall not perform tasks near exposed energized parts. Employees shall not reach blindly into areas which may contain energized parts.

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**WAC 296-155-428 (Cont.)**

- (22) Confined or enclosed space (such as a manhole or vault) that contains exposed energized parts, the employer shall provide, and the employee shall use, protective shields, protective barriers, or insulating materials as necessary to avoid inadvertent contact with these parts. Doors, hinged panels, and the like shall be secured to prevent their swinging into an employee and causing the employee to contact exposed energized parts.
- (23) Conductive materials and equipment. Conductive materials and equipment that are in contact with any part of an employee's body shall be handled in a manner that will prevent them from contacting exposed energized conductors or circuit parts. If an employee handle long dimensional conductive objects (such as ducts and pipes) practices (such as the use of insulation, guarding, and material handling techniques) which will minimize the hazard.
- (24) Portable ladders. Portable ladders shall have nonconductive siderails if they are used where the employee or the ladder could contact exposed energized parts.
- (25) Conductive apparel. Conductive articles of jewelry and clothing (such as watch bands, bracelets, rings, key chains, necklaces, metalized aprons, cloth with conductive thread, or metal headgear) shall not be worn if they might contact exposed energized parts.
- (26) Housekeeping duties.
  - (a) Where live parts present an electrical contact hazard, employees shall not perform housekeeping duties at such close distances to the parts that there is a possibility of contact, unless adequate safeguards (such as insulating equipment or barriers) are provided.
  - (b) Electrically conductive cleaning materials (including conductive solids such as steel wool, metalized cloth, and silicon carbide, as well as conductive liquid solutions) shall not be used in proximity to energized parts unless procedures are followed which will prevent electrical contact.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 94-15-096 (Order 94-07), § 296-155-428, filed 7/20/94, effective 9/20/94; 92-23-017 (Order 92-13), § 296-155-428, filed 11/10/92, effective 12/18/92; 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-428, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-429 Lockout and tagging of circuits.**

- (1) Controls. Controls that are deactivated during the course of work on energized or deenergized equipment or circuits shall be tagged and padlocked in the open position.
- (2) Equipment and circuits. Equipment or circuits that are de-energized shall be rendered inoperative and have tags and locked padlocks attached at all points where such equipment or circuits can be energized.
- (3) Tags. Tags shall be placed to identify plainly the equipment or circuits being worked on.
- (4) Lockout and tagging. While any employee is exposed to contact with parts of fixed electric equipment or circuits which have been deenergized, the circuits energizing the parts shall be locked out or tagged or both according to the requirements of this section. The requirements shall be followed in the order in which they are presented (i.e., (a) of this subsection first, then (b) of this subsection).

*Note 1: As used in this section, fixed equipment refers to equipment fastened in connected by permanent wiring methods.*

*Note 2: Lockout and tagging procedures that comply with chapter 296-803 WAC, will also be deemed to comply with this subsection provided that:*

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**WAC 296-155-429 (Cont.)**

1. *The procedures address the electrical safety hazards covered by this part; and*
  2. *The procedures also incorporate the requirements of (c)(iv) and (d)(ii) of this subsection.*
- (a) Procedures. The employer shall maintain a written copy of the procedures outlined in this subsection and shall make it available for inspection by employees and by the director and his/her authorized representative.

*Note: The written procedures may be in the form of a copy of this section, WAC 296-155-429.*

- (b) Deenergizing equipment.
- (i) Safe procedures for deenergizing circuits and equipment shall be determined before circuits or equipment are deenergized.
  - (ii) The circuits and equipment to be worked on shall be disconnected from all electric energy sources. Control circuit devices, such as push buttons, selector switches, and interlocks, shall not be used as the sole means for deenergizing circuits or equipment. Interlocks for electric equipment shall not be used as a substitute for lockout and tagging procedures.
  - (iii) Stored electric energy which might endanger personnel shall be released. Capacitors shall be discharged and high capacitance elements shall be short-circuited and grounded, if the stored electric energy might endanger personnel.

*Note: If the capacitors or associated equipment are handled in meeting this requirement, they shall be treated as energized.*

- (iv) Stored nonelectrical energy in devices that could reenergize electric circuit parts shall be blocked or relieved to the extent that the circuit parts could not be accidentally energized by the device.
- (c) Application of locks and tags.
- (i) A lock and a tag shall be placed on each disconnecting means used to deenergize circuits and equipment on which work is to be performed, except as provided in (c)(iii) and (v) of this subsection. The lock shall be attached to prevent persons from operating the disconnecting means unless they resort to undue force or the use of tools.
  - (ii) Each tag shall contain a statement prohibiting unauthorized operation of the disconnecting means and removal of the tag.
  - (iii) If a lock cannot be applied, or if the employer can demonstrate that tagging procedures will provide a level of safety equivalent to that obtained by the use of a lock, a tag may be used without a lock.
  - (iv) A tag used without a lock, as permitted by item (iii) of this subsection, shall be supplemented by at least one additional safety measure that provides a level of safety equivalent to that obtained by the use of a lock. Examples of additional safety measures include the removal of an isolating circuit element, blocking of a controlling switch, or opening of an extra disconnecting device.



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**WAC 296-155-429 (Cont.)**

- (v) A lock may be placed without a tag only under the following conditions:
  - (A) Only one circuit or piece of equipment is deenergized; and
  - (B) The lockout period does not extend beyond the work shifts; and
  - (C) Employees exposed to the hazards associated with reenergizing the circuit or equipment are familiar with this procedure.
- (d) Verification of deenergized condition. The requirements of this subsection shall be met before any circuits or equipment can be considered and worked as deenergized.
  - (i) A qualified person shall operate the equipment operating controls or otherwise verify that the equipment cannot be restarted.
  - (ii) A qualified person shall use test equipment to test the circuit elements and electrical parts of equipment to which employees will be exposed and shall verify that the circuit elements and equipment parts are deenergized. The test shall also determine if any energized conditions exist as a result of inadvertently induced voltage or unrelated voltage backfeed even though specific parts of the circuit have been deenergized and presumed to be safe. If the circuit to be tested is over 600 volts, nominal, the test equipment shall be checked for proper operation immediately before and immediately after this test.
- (e) Reenergizing equipment. These requirements shall be met, in the order given, before circuits or equipment are reenergized, even temporarily.
  - (i) A qualified person shall conduct tests and visual inspections, as necessary, to verify that all tools, electrical jumpers, shorts, grounds, and other such devices have been removed, so that the circuits and equipment can be safely energized.
  - (ii) Employees exposed to the hazards associated with reenergizing the circuit or equipment shall be warned to stay clear of circuits and equipment.
  - (iii) Each lock and tag shall be removed by the employee who applied it or under his or her direct supervision. However, if this employee is absent from the work place, then the lock or tag may be removed by a qualified person designated to perform this task provided that:
    - (A) The employer ensures that the employee who applied the lock or tag is not available at the work place; and
    - (B) The employer ensures that the employee is aware that the lock or tag has been removed before he or she resumes work at that work place.
  - (iv) There shall be a visual determination that all employees are clear of the circuits and equipment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-15-105 (Order 03-12), § 296-155-429, filed 07/20/04, effective 11/01/04. Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 96-17-056, § 296-155-429, filed 8/20/96, effective 10/15/96; 94-15-096 (Order 94-07), § 296-155-429, filed 7/20/94, effective 9/20/94; 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), 296-155-429, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-432 Maintenance of equipment.** The employer shall ensure that all wiring components and utilization equipment in hazardous locations are maintained in a dust-tight, dust-ignition-proof, or explosion-proof condition, as appropriate. There shall be no loose or missing screws, gaskets, threaded connections, seals, or other impairments to a tight condition.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-432, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-434 Environmental deterioration of equipment.**

- (1) Deteriorating agents.
  - (a) Unless identified for use in the operating environment, no conductors or equipment shall be located:
    - (i) In damp or wet locations;
    - (ii) Where exposed to gases, fumes, vapors, liquids, or other agents having a deteriorating effect on the conductors or equipment; or
    - (iii) Where exposed to excessive temperatures.
  - (b) Control equipment, utilization equipment, and busways approved for use in dry locations only shall be protected against damage from the weather during building construction.
- (2) Protection against corrosion. Metal raceways, cable armor, boxes, cable sheathing, cabinets, elbows, couplings, fittings, supports, and support hardware shall be of materials appropriate for the environment in which they are to be installed.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-434, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-437 Batteries and battery charging.**

- (1) General requirements.
  - (a) Batteries of the unsealed type shall be located in enclosures with outside vents or in well ventilated rooms and shall be arranged so as to prevent the escape of fumes, gases, or electrolyte spray into other areas.
  - (b) Ventilation shall be provided to ensure diffusion of the gases from the battery and to prevent the accumulation of an explosive mixture.
  - (c) Racks and trays shall be substantial and shall be treated to make them resistant to the electrolyte.
  - (d) Floors shall be of acid resistant construction unless protected from acid accumulations.
  - (e) Face shields, aprons, and rubber gloves shall be provided for and worn by workers handling acids or batteries.
  - (f) Facilities for quick drenching of the eyes and body shall be provided within 25 feet (7.62 m) of battery handling areas.
  - (g) Facilities shall be provided for flushing and neutralizing spilled electrolyte and for fire protection.

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**WAC 296-155-437 (Cont.)**

- (2) Charging.
  - (a) Battery charging installations shall be located in areas designated for that purpose.
  - (b) Charging apparatus shall be protected from damage by trucks.
  - (c) When batteries are being charged, the vent caps shall be kept in place to avoid electrolyte spray. Vent caps shall be maintained in functioning condition.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-437, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-441 Applicability.**

- (1) Covered. WAC 296-155-441 through 296-155-459 contain installation safety requirements for electrical equipment and installations used to provide electric power and light at the jobsite. These sections apply to installations, both temporary and permanent, used on the jobsite; but these sections do not apply to existing permanent installations that were in place before the construction activity commenced.

*Note: If the electrical installation is made in accordance with the National Electrical Code ANSI/NFPA 70-1984, exclusive of formal interpretations and tentative interim amendments, it will be deemed to be in compliance with WAC 296-155-444 through 296-155-459, except for WAC 296-155-447 (2)(a) and 296-155-449 (1)(b)(ii)(E), (F), (G), and (J).*

- (2) Not covered. WAC 296-155-441 through 296-155-459 do not cover installations used for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy, including related communication, metering, control, and transformation installations. (However, these regulations do cover portable and vehicle-mounted generators used to provide power for equipment used at the jobsite.) See the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050. 02-12-098 (Order 00-20), § 296-155-441, filed 06/05/02, effective 08/01/02.  
Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-441, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-444 General requirements.**

- (1) Approval. All electrical conductors and equipment shall be approved.
- (2) Examination, installation, and use of equipment.
  - (a) Examination. The employer shall ensure that electrical equipment is free from recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees. Safety of equipment shall be determined on the basis of the following considerations:
    - (i) Suitability for installation and use in conformity with the provisions of this part. Suitability of equipment for an identified purpose may be evidenced by listing, labeling, or certification for that identified purpose.
    - (ii) Mechanical strength and durability, including, for parts designed to enclose and protect other equipment, the adequacy of the protection thus provided.
    - (iii) Electrical insulation.
    - (iv) Heating effects under conditions of use.
    - (v) Arcing effects.

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**WAC 296-155-444 (Cont.)**

- (vi) Classification by type, size, voltage, current capacity, specific use.
  - (vii) Other factors which contribute to the practical safeguarding of employees using or likely to come in contact with the equipment.
- (b) Installation and use. Listed, labeled, or certified equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with instructions included in the listing, labeling, or certification.
- (3) Interrupting rating. Equipment intended to break current shall have an interrupting rating at system voltage sufficient for the current that must be interrupted.
- (4) Mounting and cooling of equipment.
  - (a) Mounting. Electric equipment shall be firmly secured to the surface on which it is mounted. Wooden plugs driven into holes in masonry, concrete, plaster, or similar materials shall not be used.
  - (b) Cooling. Electrical equipment which depends upon the natural circulation of air and convection principles for cooling of exposed surfaces shall be installed so that room air flow over such surfaces is not prevented by walls or by adjacent installed equipment. For equipment designed for floor mounting, clearance between top surfaces and adjacent surfaces shall be provided to dissipate rising warm air. Electrical equipment provided with ventilating openings shall be installed so that walls or other obstructions do not prevent the free circulation of air through the equipment.
- (5) Splices. Conductors shall be spliced or joined with splicing devices designed for the use or by brazing, welding, or soldering with a fusible metal or alloy. Soldered splices shall first be so spliced or joined as to be mechanically and electrically secure without solder and then soldered. All splices and joints and the free ends of conductors shall be covered with an insulation equivalent to that of the conductors or with an insulating device designed for the purpose.
- (6) Arcing parts. Parts of electric equipment which in ordinary operation produce arcs, sparks, flames, or molten metal shall be enclosed or separated and isolated from all combustible material.
- (7) Marking. Electrical equipment shall not be used unless the manufacturer's name, trademark, or other descriptive marking by which the organization responsible for the product may be identified is placed on the equipment and unless other markings are provided giving voltage, current, wattage, or other ratings as necessary. The marking shall be of sufficient durability to withstand the environment involved.
- (8) Identification of disconnecting means and circuits. Each disconnecting means required by this part for motors and appliances shall be legibly marked to indicate its purpose, unless located and arranged so the purpose is evident. Each service, feeder, and branch circuit, at its disconnecting means or overcurrent device, shall be legibly marked to indicate its purpose, unless located and arranged so the purpose is evident. These markings shall be of sufficient durability to withstand the environment involved.
- (9) Construction site. Precautions shall be taken to make any necessary open wiring inaccessible to unauthorized personnel.
- (10) 600 volts, nominal, or less. This subsection applies to equipment operating at 600 volts, nominal, or less.

**WAC 296-155-444 (Cont.)**

- (a) Working space about electric equipment. Sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electric equipment to permit ready and safe operation and maintenance of such equipment.
- (i) Working clearances. Except as required or permitted elsewhere in this part, the dimension of the working space in the direction of access to live parts operating at 600 volts or less and likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while alive shall not be less than indicated in Table I-1. In addition to the dimensions shown in Table I-1, workspace shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) wide in front of the electric equipment. Distances shall be measured from the live parts if they are exposed, or from the enclosure front or opening if the live parts are enclosed. Walls constructed of concrete, brick, or tile are considered to be grounded. Working space is not required in back of assemblies such as dead-front switchboards or motor control centers where there are no renewable or adjustable parts such as fuses or switches on the back and where all connections are accessible from locations other than the back.

<b>Table I-1</b>			
<b>Working Clearances</b>			
<b>Nominal Voltage to Ground</b>	<b>Minimum Clear Distance for Conditions<sup>1</sup></b>		
	<b>(a)</b> <b>Feet<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(b)</b> <b>Feet<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(c)</b> <b>Feet<sup>2</sup></b>
0-150	3	3	3
151-600	3	3 1/2	4

<sup>1</sup> Conditions (a), (b), and (c) are as follows: (a) Exposed live parts on one side and no live or grounded parts on the other side of the working space, or exposed live parts on both sides effectively guarded by insulating material. Insulated wire or insulated busbars operating at not over 300 volts are not considered live parts. (b) Exposed live parts on one side and grounded parts on the other side. (c) Exposed live parts on both sides of the workspace not guarded provided in condition (a) with the operator between.

<sup>2</sup> Note: For International System of Units (SI): One foot=0.3048m.

- (ii) Clear spaces. Working space required by this part shall not be used for storage. When normally enclosed live parts are exposed for inspection or servicing, the working space, if in a passageway or general open space, shall be guarded.
- (iii) Access and entrance to working space. At least one entrance shall be provided to give access to the working space about electric equipment.
- (iv) Front working space. Where there are live parts normally exposed on the front of switchboards or motor control centers, the working space in front of such equipment shall not be less than 3 feet (914 mm).
- (v) Headroom. The minimum headroom of working spaces about service equipment, switchboards, panelboards, or motor control centers shall be 6 feet 3 inches (1.91 m).

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**WAC 296-155-444 (Cont.)**

- (b) Guarding of live parts.
  - (i) Except as required or permitted elsewhere in this part, live parts of electric equipment operating at 50 volts or more shall be guarded against accidental contact by cabinets or other forms of enclosures, or by any of the following means:
    - (A) By location in a room, vault, or similar enclosure that is accessible only to qualified persons.
    - (B) By partitions or screens so arranged that only qualified persons will have access to the space within reach of the live parts. Any openings in such partitions or screens shall be so sized and located that persons are not likely to come into accidental contact with the live parts or to bring conducting objects into contact with them.
    - (C) By location on a balcony, gallery, or platform so elevated and arranged as to exclude unqualified persons.
    - (D) By elevation of 8 feet (2.44 m) or more above the floor or other working surface and so installed as to exclude unqualified persons.
  - (ii) In locations where electric equipment would be exposed to physical damage, enclosures or guards shall be so arranged and of such strength as to prevent such damage.
  - (iii) Entrances to rooms and other guarded locations containing exposed live parts shall be marked with conspicuous warning signs forbidding unqualified persons to enter.
- (11) Over 600 volts, nominal.
  - (a) General. Conductors and equipment used on circuits exceeding 600 volts, nominal, shall comply with all applicable provisions of subsections (1) through (7) of this section and with the following provisions which supplement or modify those requirements. The provisions of (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection do not apply to equipment on the supply side of the service conductors.
  - (b) Enclosure for electrical installations. Electrical installations in a vault, room, closet or in an area surrounded by a wall, screen, or fence, access to which is controlled by lock and key or other equivalent means, are considered to be accessible to qualified persons only. A wall, screen, or fence less than 8 feet (2.44 m) in height is not considered adequate to prevent access unless it has other features that provide a degree of isolation equivalent to an 8 foot (2.44 m) fence. The entrances to all buildings, rooms or enclosures containing exposed live parts or exposed conductors operating at over 600 volts, nominal, shall be kept locked or shall be under the observation of a qualified person at all times.
    - (i) Installations accessible to qualified persons only. Electrical installations having exposed live parts shall be accessible to qualified persons only and shall comply with the applicable provisions of (c) of this subsection.
    - (ii) Installations accessible to unqualified persons. Electrical installations that are open to unqualified persons shall be made with metal-enclosed equipment or shall be enclosed in a vault or in an area, access to which is controlled by a lock. Metal-enclosed switchgear,

**WAC 296-155-444 (Cont.)**

unit substations, transformers, pull boxes, connection boxes, and other similar associated equipment shall be marked with appropriate caution signs. If equipment is exposed to physical damage from vehicular traffic, guards shall be provided to prevent such damage. Ventilating or similar openings in metal-enclosed equipment shall be designed so that foreign objects inserted through these openings will be deflected from energized parts.

- (c) **Workspace about equipment.** Sufficient space shall be provided and maintained about electric equipment to permit ready and safe operation and maintenance of such equipment. Where energized parts are exposed, the minimum clear workspace shall not be less than 6 feet 6 inches (1.98 m) high (measured vertically from the floor or platform,) or less than 3 feet (914 mm) wide (measured parallel to the equipment.) The depth shall be as required in Table I-2. The workspace shall be adequate to permit at least a ninety degree opening of doors or hinged panels.
- (i) **Working space.** The minimum clear working space in front of electric equipment such as switchboards, control panels, switches, circuit breakers, motor controllers, relays, and similar equipment shall not be less than specified in Table I-2 unless otherwise specified in this part. Distances shall be measured from the live parts if they are exposed, or from the enclosure front or opening if the live parts are enclosed. However, working space is not required in back of equipment such as deadfront switchboards or control assemblies where there are no renewable or adjustable parts (such as fuses or switches) on the back and where all connections are accessible from locations other than the back. Where rear access is required to work on de-energized parts on the back of enclosed equipment, a minimum working space of 30 inches (762 mm) horizontally shall be provided.

<b>Table I-2</b>			
<b>Minimum Depth of Clear WorkingSpace in Front of electric Equipment</b>			
<b>Nominal Voltage to Ground</b>	<b>Minimum Clear Distance for Conditions<sup>1</sup></b>		
	<b>(a)</b> <b>Feet<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(b)</b> <b>Feet<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(c)</b> <b>Feet<sup>2</sup></b>
601 to 2,500	3	4	5
2,501 to 9,000	4	5	6
9,001 to 25,000	5	6	9
25,001 to 75kV	6	8	10
Above 75kV	8	10	12

<sup>1</sup> Conditions (a), (b), and (c) are as follows: (a) Exposed live parts on one side and no live or grounded parts on the other side of the working space, or exposed live parts on both sides effectively guarded by insulating materials. Insulated wire or insulated busbars operating at not over 300 volts are not considered live parts. (b) Exposed live parts on one side and grounded parts on the other side. Walls constructed of concrete, brick, or the tile are considered to be grounded surfaces. (c) Exposed live parts on both sides of the workspace (not guarded as provided in Condition (a)) with the operator between.

<sup>2</sup> Note: For SI units: One foot=0.3048m.

**WAC 296-155-444 (Cont.)**

- (ii) Lighting outlets and points of control. The lighting outlets shall be so arranged that persons changing lamps or making repairs on the lighting system will not be endangered by live parts or other equipment. The points of control shall be so located that persons are not likely to come in contact with any live part or moving part of the equipment while turning on the lights.
- (iii) Elevation of unguarded live parts. Unguarded live parts above working space shall be maintained at elevations not less than specified in Table I-3.

<b>Table I-3</b>	
<b>Elevation of Unguarded Energized Parts Above Working Space</b>	
<b>Nominal Voltage to Between Phases</b>	<b>Minimum Elevation</b>
601 to 7,500	8 feet 6 inches <sup>1</sup>
7,501 to 35,000	9 feet
Over 35kV	9 feet + 0.37 inches per kV above 35 kv

<sup>1</sup> Note: For SI units: One inch=25.4mm, one foot=0.3048m.

- (d) Entrance and access to workspace. At least one entrance not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide and 6 feet 6 inches (1.98 m) high shall be provided to give access to the working space about electric equipment. On switchboard and control panels exceeding 48 inches (1.22 m) in width, there shall be one entrance at each end of such board where practicable. Where bare energized parts at any voltage or insulated energized parts above 600 volts are located adjacent to such entrance, they shall be guarded.
- (12) Welding and cutting equipment. Welding and cutting equipment shall meet the requirements specified in Parts D and H of this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 93-19-142 (Order 93-04), § 296-155-444, filed 9/22/93, effective 11/1/93; 92-23-017 (Order 92-13), § 296-155-444, filed 11/10/92, effective 12/18/92; 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-444 filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-447 Wiring design and protection.**

- (1) Use and identification of grounded and grounding conductors.
  - (a) Identification of conductors. A conductor used as a grounded conductor shall be identifiable and distinguishable from all other conductors. A conductor used as an equipment grounding conductor shall be identifiable and distinguishable from all other conductors.
  - (b) Polarity of connections. No grounded conductor shall be attached to any terminal or lead so as to reverse designated polarity.
  - (c) Use of grounding terminals and devices. A grounding terminal or grounding-type device on a receptacle, cord connector, or attachment plug shall not be used for purposes other than grounding.



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**WAC 296-155-447 (Cont.)**

- (2) Branch circuits.
  - (a) Ground-fault protection.
    - (i) General. The employer shall use either ground-fault circuit interrupters as specified in (a)(ii) of this subsection or an assured equipment grounding conductor program as specified in (a)(iii) of this subsection to protect employees on construction sites. These requirements are in addition to any other requirements for equipment grounding conductors.
    - (ii) Ground-fault circuit interrupters. All 120-volt, single-phase, 15-ampere and 20-ampere receptacle outlets on construction sites, which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure and which are in use by employees, shall have approved ground-fault circuit interrupters for personnel protection. Receptacles on a two-wire, single-phase portable or vehicle-mounted generator rated not more than 5kW, where the circuit conductors of the generator are insulated from the generator frame and all other grounded surfaces, need not be protected with ground-fault circuit interrupters.
    - (iii) Assured equipment grounding conductor program. The employer shall establish and implement an assured equipment grounding conductor program on construction sites covering all cord sets, receptacles which are not a part of the building or structure, and equipment connected by cord and plug which are available for use or used by employees. This program shall comply with the following minimum requirements:
      - (A) A written description of the program, including the specific procedures adopted by the employer, shall be available at the jobsite for inspection and copying by the director and any affected employee.
      - (B) The employer shall designate one or more competent persons (as defined in WAC 296-155-012(4)) to implement the program, and to perform continuing tests and inspections as required.
      - (C) Each cord set, attachment cap, plug and receptacle of cord sets, and any equipment connected by cord and plug, except cord sets and receptacles which are fixed and not exposed to damage, shall be visually inspected before each day's use for external defects, such as deformed or missing pins or insulation damage, and for indications of possible internal damage. Equipment found damaged or defective shall not be used until repaired.
      - (D) The following tests shall be performed on all cord sets, receptacles which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure, and cord-connected and plug-connected equipment required to be grounded:
        - (I) All equipment grounding conductors shall be tested for continuity and shall be electrically continuous.
        - (II) Each receptacle and attachment cap or plug shall be tested for correct attachment of the equipment grounding conductor. The equipment grounding conductor shall be connected to its proper terminal.
        - (III) Each outlet receptacle, or power source shall be tested to ensure proper polarity.

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- (E) All required tests shall be performed:
    - (I) Before first use;
    - (II) Before equipment is returned to service following any repairs;
    - (III) Before equipment is used after any incident which can be reasonably suspected to have caused damage (for example, when a cord set is run over); and
    - (IV) At intervals not to exceed 3 months, except that cord sets and receptacles which are fixed and not exposed to damage shall be tested at intervals not exceeding 6 months.
  - (F) The employer shall not make available or permit the use by employees of any equipment which has not met the requirements of (a)(iii) of this subsection.
  - (G) Tests performed as required in this subsection shall be recorded. This test record shall identify each receptacle, cord set, and cord-connected and plug-connected equipment that passed the test and shall indicate the last date it was tested or the interval for which it was tested. This record shall be kept by means of logs, color coding, or other effective means and shall be maintained until replaced by a more current record. The record shall be made available on the jobsite for inspection by the director and any affected employee.
- (b) Outlet devices. Outlet devices shall have an ampere rating not less than the load to be served and shall comply with the following:
- (i) Single receptacles. A single receptacle installed on an individual branch circuit shall have an ampere rating of not less than that of the branch circuit.
  - (ii) Two or more receptacles. Where connected to a branch circuit supplying two or more receptacles or outlets, receptacle ratings shall conform to the values listed in Table I-4.
  - (iii) Receptacles used for the connection of motors. The rating of an attachment plug or receptacle used for cord-connection and plug-connection of a motor to a branch circuit shall not exceed 15 amperes at 125 volts or 10 amperes at 250 volts if individual overload protection is omitted.

<b>Table I-4</b>	
<b>Receptacle Ratings for Various Size Circuits</b>	
<b>Circuit Rating Amperes</b>	<b>Receptacle Rating Amperes</b>
15	Not over 15
20	15 or 20
30	30
40	40 or 50
50	50

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**WAC 296-155-447 (Cont.)**

- (3) Outside conductors and lamps.
- (a) 600 volts, nominal, or less. (a)(i) through (iv)(D) of this subsection apply to branch circuit, feeder, and service conductors rated 600 volts, nominal, or less and run outdoors as open conductors.
    - (i) Conductors on poles. Conductors supported on poles shall provide a horizontal climbing space not less than the following:
      - (A) Power conductors below communication conductors: 30 inches (762 mm).
      - (B) Power conductors alone or above communication conductors: 300 volts or less-24 inches (610 mm); more than 300 volts-30 inches (762 mm).
      - (C) Communication conductors below power conductors: With power conductors 300 volts or less-24 inches (610 mm); more than 300 volts-30 inches (762 mm).
    - (ii) Clearance from ground. Open conductors shall conform to the following minimum clearances:
      - (A) 10 feet (3.05 m)-above finished grade, sidewalks, or from any platform or projection from which they might be reached.
      - (B) 12 feet (3.66 m)-over areas subject to vehicular traffic other than truck traffic.
      - (C) 15 feet (4.57 m)-over areas other than those specified in (a)(ii)(D) of this subsection that are subject to truck traffic.
      - (D) 18 feet (5.49 m)-over public streets, alleys, roads, and driveways.
    - (iii) Clearance from building openings. Conductors shall have a clearance of at least 3 feet (914 mm) from windows, doors, fire escapes, or similar locations. Conductors run above the top level of a window are considered to be out of reach from that window and, therefore, do not have to be 3 feet (914 mm) away.
    - (iv) Clearance over roofs. Conductors above roof space accessible to employees on foot shall have a clearance from the highest point of the roof surface of not less than 8 feet (2.44 m) vertical clearance for insulated conductors, not less than 10 feet (3.05 m) vertical or diagonal clearance for covered conductors, and not less than 15 feet (4.57 m) for bare conductors, except that:
      - (A) Where the roof space is also accessible to vehicular traffic, the vertical clearance shall not be less than 18 feet (5.49 m); or
      - (B) Where the roof space is not normally accessible to employees on foot, fully insulated conductors shall have a vertical or diagonal clearance of not less than 3 feet (914 mm); or

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- (C) Where the voltage between conductors is 300 volts or less and the roof has a slope of not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in 12 inches (305 mm), the clearance from roofs shall be at least 3 feet (914 mm); or
    - (D) Where the voltage between conductors is 300 volts or less and the conductors do not pass over more than 4 feet (1.22 m) of the overhang portion of the roof and they are terminated at a through-the-roof raceway or support, the clearance from roofs shall be at least 18 inches (457 mm).
  - (b) Location of outdoor lamps. Lamps for outdoor lighting shall be located below all live conductors, transformers, or other electric equipment, unless such equipment is controlled by a disconnecting means that can be locked in the open position or unless adequate clearances or other safeguards are provided for relamping operations.
- (4) Services.
  - (a) Disconnecting means.
    - (i) General. Means shall be provided to disconnect all conductors in a building or other structure from the service-entrance conductors. The disconnecting means shall plainly indicate whether it is in the open or closed position and shall be installed at a readily accessible location nearest the point of entrance of the service-entrance conductors.
    - (ii) Simultaneous opening of poles. Each service disconnecting means shall simultaneously disconnect all ungrounded conductors.
  - (b) Services over 600 volts, nominal. The following additional requirements apply to services over 600 volts, nominal.
    - (i) Guarding. Service-entrance conductors installed as open wires shall be guarded to make them accessible only to qualified persons.
    - (ii) Warning signs. Signs warning of high voltage shall be posted where unauthorized employees might come in contact with live parts.
- (5) Overcurrent protection.
  - (a) 600 volts, nominal, or less. The following requirements apply to overcurrent protection of circuits rated 600 volts, nominal, or less.
    - (i) Protection of conductors and equipment. Conductors and equipment shall be protected from overcurrent in accordance with their ability to safely conduct current. Conductors shall have sufficient ampacity to carry the load.
    - (ii) Grounded conductors. Except for motor-running overload protection, overcurrent devices shall not interrupt the continuity of the grounded conductor unless all conductors of the circuit are opened simultaneously.

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**WAC 296-155-447 (Cont.)**

- (iii) Disconnection of fuses and thermal cutouts. Except for devices provided for current-limiting on the supply side of the service disconnecting means, all cartridge fuses which are accessible to other than qualified persons and all fuses and thermal cutouts on circuits over 150 volts to ground shall be provided with disconnecting means. This disconnecting means shall be installed so that the fuse or thermal cutout can be disconnected from its supply without disrupting service to equipment and circuits unrelated to those protected by the overcurrent device.
- (iv) Location in or on premises. Overcurrent devices shall be readily accessible. Overcurrent devices shall not be located where they could create an employee safety hazard by being exposed to physical damage or located in the vicinity of easily ignitable material.
- (v) Arcing or suddenly moving parts. Fuses and circuit breakers shall be so located or shielded that employees will not be burned or otherwise injured by their operation.
- (vi) Circuit breakers.
  - (A) Circuit breakers shall clearly indicate whether they are in the open (off) or closed (on) position.
  - (B) Where circuit breaker handles on switchboards are operated vertically rather than horizontally or rotationally, the up position of the handle shall be the closed (on) position.
  - (C) If used as switches in 120-volt, fluorescent lighting circuits, circuit breakers shall be marked "SWD."
- (b) Over 600 volts, nominal. Feeders and branch circuits over 600 volts, nominal, shall have short-circuit protection.
- (6) Effective grounding. The path from circuits, equipment, structures, and conduit or enclosures to ground shall be permanent and continuous; have ample carrying capacity to conduct safely the currents liable to be imposed on it; and have the impedance sufficiently low to limit the potential above ground and to result in the operation of the overcurrent devices in the circuit. (a) through (k) of this subsection contain grounding requirements for systems, circuits, and equipment.
  - (a) Systems to be grounded. The following systems which supply premises wiring shall be grounded:
    - (i) Three-wire DC systems. All three-wire DC systems shall have their neutral conductor grounded.
    - (ii) Two-wire DC systems. Two-wire DC systems operating at over 50 volts through 300 volts between conductors shall be grounded unless they are rectifier-derived from an AC system complying with (a)(iii), (iv), and (v) of this subsection.
    - (iii) AC circuits, less than 50 volts. AC circuits of less than 50 volts shall be grounded if they are installed as overhead conductors outside of buildings or if they are supplied by transformers and the transformer primary supply system is ungrounded or exceeds 150 volts to ground.

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**WAC 296-155-447 (Cont.)**

- (iv) AC systems, 50 volts to 1000 volts. AC systems of 50 volts to 1000 volts shall be grounded under any of the following conditions, unless exempted by (a)(v) of this subsection:
  - (A) If the system can be so grounded that the maximum voltage to ground on the ungrounded conductors does not exceed 150 volts;
  - (B) If the system is nominally rated 480Y/277 volt, 3-phase, 4-wire in which the neutral is used as a circuit conductor;
  - (C) If the system is nominally rated 240/120 volt, 3-phase, 4-wire in which the midpoint of one phase is used as a circuit conductor; or
  - (D) If a service conductor is uninsulated.
- (v) Exceptions. AC systems of 50 volts to 1000 volts are not required to be grounded if the system is separately derived and is supplied by a transformer that has a primary voltage rating less than 1000 volts, provided all of the following conditions are met:
  - (A) The system is used exclusively for control circuits;
  - (B) The conditions of maintenance and supervision assure that only qualified persons will service the installation;
  - (C) Continuity of control power is required; and
  - (D) Ground detectors are installed on the control system.
- (b) Separately derived systems. Where (a) of this subsection requires grounding of wiring systems whose power is derived from generator, transformer, or converter windings and has no direct electrical connection, including a solidly connected grounded circuit conductor, to supply conductors originating in another system, (e) of this subsection shall also apply.
- (c) Portable and vehicle-mounted generators.
  - (i) Portable generators. Under the following conditions, the frame of a portable generator need not be grounded and may serve as the grounding electrode for a system supplied by the generator:
    - (A) The generator supplies only equipment mounted on the generator and/or cord-connected and plug-connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the generator; and
    - (B) The noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment and the equipment grounding conductor terminals of the receptacles are bonded to the generator frame.
  - (ii) Vehicle-mounted generators. Under the following conditions the frame of a vehicle may serve as the grounding electrode for a system supplied by a generator located on the vehicle:

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**WAC 296-155-447 (Cont.)**

- (A) The frame of the generator is bonded to the vehicle frame; and
  - (B) The generator supplies only equipment located on the vehicle and/or cord-connected and plug-connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the vehicle or on the generator; and
  - (C) The noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment and the equipment grounding conductor terminals of the receptacles are bonded to the generator frame; and
  - (D) The system complies with all other provisions of this section.
- (iii) Neutral conductor bonding. A neutral conductor shall be bonded to the generator frame if the generator is a component of a separately derived system. No other conductor need be bonded to the generator frame.
- (d) Conductors to be grounded. For AC premises wiring systems the identified conductor shall be grounded.
- (e) Grounding connections.
  - (i) Grounded system. For a grounded system, a grounding electrode conductor shall be used to connect both the equipment grounding conductor and the grounded circuit conductor to the grounding electrode. Both the equipment grounding conductor and the grounding electrode conductor shall be connected to the grounded circuit conductor on the supply side of the service disconnecting means, or on the supply side of the system disconnecting means or overcurrent devices if the system is separately derived.
  - (ii) Ungrounded systems. For an ungrounded service-supplied system, the equipment grounding conductor shall be connected to the grounding electrode conductor at the service equipment. For an ungrounded separately derived system, the equipment grounding conductor shall be connected to the grounding electrode conductor at, or ahead of, the system disconnecting means or overcurrent devices.
- (f) Grounding path. The path to ground from circuits, equipment, and enclosures shall be permanent and continuous.
- (g) Supports, enclosures, and equipment to be grounded.
  - (i) Supports and enclosures for conductors. Metal cable trays, metal raceways, and metal enclosures for conductors shall be grounded, except that:
    - (A) Metal enclosures such as sleeves that are used to protect cable assemblies from physical damage need not be grounded; and
    - (B) Metal enclosures for conductors added to existing installations of open wire, knob-and-tube wiring, and nonmetallic-sheathed cable need not be grounded if all of the following conditions are met:

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- (I) Runs are less than 25 feet (7.62 m);
  - (II) Enclosures are free from probable contact with ground, grounded metal, metal laths, or other conductive materials; and
  - (III) Enclosures are guarded against employee contact.
- (ii) Service equipment enclosures. Metal enclosures for service equipment shall be grounded.
- (iii) Fixed equipment. Exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment which may become energized shall be grounded under any of the following conditions:
  - (A) If within 8 feet (2.44 m) vertically or 5 feet (1.52 m) horizontally of ground or grounded metal objects and subject to employee contact.
  - (B) If located in a wet or damp location and subject to employee contact.
  - (C) If in electrical contact with metal.
  - (D) If in a hazardous (classified) location.
  - (E) If supplied by a metal-clad, metal-sheathed, or grounded metal raceway wiring method.
  - (F) If equipment operates with any terminal at over 150 volts to ground; however, the following need not be grounded:
    - (I) Enclosures for switches or circuit breakers used for other than service equipment and accessible to qualified persons only;
    - (II) Metal frames of electrically heated appliances which are permanently and effectively insulated from ground; and
    - (III) The cases of distribution apparatus such as transformers and capacitors mounted on wooden poles at a height exceeding 8 feet (2.44 m) above ground or grade level.
- (iv) Equipment connected by cord and plug. Under any of the conditions described in (g)(iv)(A) through (C) of this subsection, exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts of cord-connected and plug-connected equipment which may become energized shall be grounded:
  - (A) If in a hazardous (classified) location (see WAC 296-155-444).
  - (B) If operated at over 150 volts to ground, except for guarded motors and metal frames of electrically heated appliances if the appliance frames are permanently and effectively insulated from ground.
  - (C) If the equipment is one of the types listed in (g)(iv)(C)(I) through (V) of this subsection. However, even though the equipment may be one of these types, it need not be grounded if it is exempted by (g)(iv)(C)(VI) of this subsection.



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- (I) Hand held motor-operated tools;
  - (II) Cord-connected and plug-connected equipment used in damp or wet locations or by employees standing on the ground or on metal floors or working inside of metal tanks or boilers;
  - (III) Portable and mobile x-ray and associated equipment;
  - (IV) Tools likely to be used in wet and/or conductive locations; and
  - (V) Portable hand lamps.
  - (VI) Tools likely to be used in wet and/or conductive locations need not be grounded if supplied through an isolating transformer with an ungrounded secondary of not over 50 volts. Listed or labeled portable tools and appliances protected by a system of double insulation, or its equivalent, need not be grounded. If such a system is employed, the equipment shall be distinctively marked to indicate that the tool or appliance utilizes a system of double insulation.
- (v) Nonelectrical equipment. The metal parts of the following nonelectrical equipment shall be grounded: Frames and tracks of electrically operated cranes; frames of nonelectrically driven elevator cars to which electric conductors are attached; hand-operated metal shifting ropes or cables of electric elevators, and metal partitions, grill work, and similar metal enclosures around equipment of over 1kV between conductors.
- (h) Methods of grounding equipment.
- (i) With circuit conductors. Noncurrent-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment, if required to be grounded by this part, shall be grounded by an equipment grounding conductor which is contained within the same raceway, cable, or cord, or runs with or encloses the circuit conductors. For DC circuits only, the equipment grounding conductor may be run separately from the circuit conductors.
  - (ii) Grounding conductor. A conductor used for grounding fixed or movable equipment shall have capacity to conduct safely any fault current which may be imposed on it.
  - (iii) Equipment considered effectively grounded. Electric equipment is considered to be effectively grounded if it is secured to, and in electrical contact with, a metal rack or structure that is provided for its support and the metal rack or structure is grounded by the method specified for the noncurrent-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment in (h)(i) of this subsection. Metal car frames supported by metal hoisting cables attached to or running over metal sheaves or drums of grounded elevator machines are also considered to be effectively grounded.
- (i) Bonding.
- (i) If bonding conductors are used to assure electrical continuity, they shall have the capacity to conduct any fault current which may be imposed.

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**WAC 296-155-447 (Cont.)**

- (ii) When attaching bonding and grounding clamps or clips, a secure and positive metal-to-metal contact shall be made. Such attachments shall be made before closures are opened and material movements are started and shall not be broken until after material movements are stopped and closures are made.
- (j) Made electrodes. If made electrodes are used, they shall be free from nonconductive coatings, such as paint or enamel; and, if practicable, they shall be embedded below permanent moisture level. A single electrode consisting of a rod, pipe or plate which has a resistance to ground greater than 25 ohms shall be augmented by one additional electrode installed no closer than 6 feet (1.83 m) to the first electrode.
- (k) Grounding of systems and circuits of 1000 volts and over (high voltage).
  - (i) General. If high voltage systems are grounded, they shall comply with all applicable provisions of (a) through (j) of this subsection as supplemented and modified by (k) of this subsection.
  - (ii) Grounding of systems supplying portable or mobile equipment. Systems supplying portable or mobile high voltage equipment, other than substations installed on a temporary basis, shall comply with the following:
    - (A) Portable and mobile high voltage equipment shall be supplied from a system having its neutral grounded through an impedance. If a delta-connected high voltage system is used to supply the equipment, a system neutral shall be derived.
    - (B) Exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts of portable and mobile equipment shall be connected by an equipment grounding conductor to the point at which the system neutral impedance is grounded.
    - (C) Ground-fault detection and relaying shall be provided to automatically deenergize any high voltage system component which has developed a ground fault. The continuity of the equipment grounding conductor shall be continuously monitored so as to de-energize automatically the high voltage feeder to the portable equipment upon loss of continuity of the equipment grounding conductor.
    - (D) The grounding electrode to which the portable or mobile equipment system neutral impedance is connected shall be isolated from and separated in the ground by at least 20 feet (6.1 m) from any other system or equipment grounding electrode, and there shall be no direct connection between the grounding electrodes, such as buried pipe, fence or like objects.
  - (iii) Grounding of equipment. All noncurrent-carrying metal parts of portable equipment and fixed equipment including their associated fences, housings, enclosures, and supporting structures shall be grounded. However, equipment which is guarded by location and isolated from ground need not be grounded. Additionally, pole-mounted distribution apparatus at a height exceeding 8 feet (2.44 m) above ground or grade level need not be grounded.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 93-19-142 (Order 93-04), § 296-155-447, filed 9/22/93, effective 11/1/93; 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-447 filed 5/11/88.]

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**WAC 296-155-449 Wiring methods, components, and equipment for general use.**

- (1) Wiring methods. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to conductors which form an integral part of equipment such as motors, controllers, motor control centers and like equipment.
  - (a) General requirements.
    - (i) Electrical continuity of metal raceways and enclosures. Metal raceways, cable armor, and other metal enclosures for conductors shall be metallically joined together into a continuous electric conductor and shall be so connected to all boxes, fittings, and cabinets as to provide effective electrical continuity.
    - (ii) Wiring in ducts. No wiring systems of any type shall be installed in ducts used to transport dust, loose stock or flammable vapors. No wiring system of any type shall be installed in any duct used for vapor removal or in any shaft containing only such ducts.
    - (iii) Receptacles for attachment plugs shall be approved, concealed contact type with a contact for extending ground continuity and shall be so designed and constructed that the plug may be pulled out without leaving any live parts exposed to accidental contact. All temporary outlet boxes shall be of a type suitable for use in wet or damp locations.
    - (iv) Attachment plugs or other connectors supplying equipment at more than 300 volts shall be of the skirted type or otherwise so designed that arcs will be confined.
  - (b) Temporary wiring.
    - (i) Scope. The provisions of (b) of this subsection apply to temporary electrical power and lighting wiring methods which may be of a class less than would be required for a permanent installation. Except as specifically modified in (b) of this subsection, all other requirements of this part for permanent wiring shall apply to temporary wiring installations. Temporary wiring shall be removed immediately upon completion of construction or the purpose for which the wiring was installed.
    - (ii) General requirements for temporary wiring.
      - (A) Feeders shall originate in a distribution center. The conductors shall be run as multiconductor cord or cable assemblies or within raceways; or, where not subject to physical damage, they may be run as open conductors on insulators not more than 10 feet (3.05 m) apart.
      - (B) Branch circuits shall originate in a power outlet or panelboard. Conductors shall be run as multiconductor cord or cable assemblies or open conductors, or shall be run in raceways. All conductors shall be protected by overcurrent devices at their ampacity. Runs of open conductors shall be located where the conductors will not be subject to physical damage, and the conductors shall be fastened at intervals not exceeding 10 feet (3.05 m). No branch-circuit conductors shall be laid on the floor. Each branch circuit that supplies receptacles or fixed equipment shall contain a separate equipment grounding conductor if the branch circuit is run as open conductors.

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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (C) Receptacles shall be of the grounding type. Unless installed in a complete metallic raceway, each branch circuit shall contain a separate equipment grounding conductor, and all receptacles shall be electrically connected to the grounding conductor. Receptacles for uses other than temporary lighting shall not be installed on branch circuits which supply temporary lighting. Receptacles shall not be connected to the same ungrounded conductor of multiwire circuits which supply temporary lighting.
- (D) Disconnecting switches or plug connectors shall be installed to permit the disconnection of all ungrounded conductors of each temporary circuit.
- (E) All lamps for general illumination shall be protected from accidental contact or breakage. Metal-case sockets shall be grounded.
- (F) Temporary lights shall be equipped with hard usage (S or SJ types) electric cords with connections and insulation maintained in safe condition. "Brewery" cord (type CBO or NB) may be substituted for hard usage cord provided it is protected from physical damages. Temporary lights shall not be suspended by their electric cords unless cords and lights are designed for this means of suspension. Splices shall retain the insulation, outer sheath properties, flexibility, and usage characteristics of the cord being spliced.

When pin-type connectors or lampholders are utilized, the area of perforations caused by lampholder removal shall be restored to the insulation capabilities of the cord.

- (G) Portable electric lighting used in wet and/or other conductive locations, as for example, drums, tanks, and vessels, shall be operated at 12 volts or less. However, 120-volt lights may be used if protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter.
- (H) A box shall be used wherever a change is made to a raceway system or a cable system which is metal clad or metal sheathed.
- (I) Flexible cords and cables shall be protected from damage. Sharp corners and projections shall be avoided. Flexible cords and cables may pass through doorways or other pinch points, if protection is provided to avoid damage.
- (J) Extension cord sets used with portable electric tools and appliances shall be of three-wire type and shall be designed for hard or extra-hard usage. Flexible cords used with temporary and portable lights shall be designed for hard or extra-hard usage.

*Note: The National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70, in Article 400, Table 400-4, lists various types of flexible cords, some of which are noted as being designed for hard or extra-hard usage. Examples of these types of flexible cords include hard service cord (types S, ST, SO, STO) and junior hard service cord (types SJ, SJO, SJT, SJTO).*

- (iii) Guarding. For temporary wiring over 600 volts, nominal, fencing, barriers, or other effective means shall be provided to prevent access of other than authorized and qualified personnel.

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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (2) Cabinets, boxes, and fittings.
  - (a) Conductors entering boxes, cabinets, or fittings. Conductors entering boxes, cabinets, or fittings shall be protected from abrasion, and openings through which conductors enter shall be effectively closed. Unused openings in cabinets, boxes, and fittings shall also be effectively closed.
  - (b) Covers and canopies. All pull boxes, junction boxes, and fittings shall be provided with covers. If metal covers are used, they shall be grounded. In energized installations each outlet box shall have a cover, faceplate, or fixture canopy. Covers of outlet boxes having holes through which flexible cord pendants pass shall be provided with bushings designed for the purpose or shall have smooth, well-rounded surfaces on which the cords may bear.
  - (c) Pull and junction boxes for systems over 600 volts, nominal. In addition to other requirements in this section for pull and junction boxes, the following shall apply to these boxes for systems over 600 volts, nominal:
    - (i) Complete enclosure. Boxes shall provide a complete enclosure for the contained conductors or cables.
    - (ii) Covers. Boxes shall be closed by covers securely fastened in place. Underground box covers that weigh over 100 pounds (43.6 kg) meet this requirement. Covers for boxes shall be permanently marked "HIGH VOLTAGE." The marking shall be on the outside of the box cover and shall be readily visible and legible.
- (3) Knife switches. Single-throw knife switches shall be so connected that the blades are dead when the switch is in the open position. Single-throw knife switches shall be so placed that gravity will not tend to close them. Single-throw knife switches approved for use in the inverted position shall be provided with a locking device that will ensure that the blades remain in the open position when so set. Double-throw knife switches may be mounted so that the throw will be either vertical or horizontal. However, if the throw is vertical, a locking device shall be provided to ensure that the blades remain in the open position when so set.
- (4) Switchboards and panelboards. Switchboards that have any exposed live parts shall be located in permanently dry locations and accessible only to qualified persons. Panelboards shall be mounted in cabinets, cutout boxes, or enclosures designed for the purpose and shall be dead front. However, panelboards other than the dead front externally-operable type are permitted where accessible only to qualified persons. Exposed blades of knife switches shall be dead when open.
- (5) Enclosures for damp or wet locations.
  - (a) Cabinets, fittings, and boxes. Cabinets, cutout boxes, fittings, boxes, and panelboard enclosures in damp or wet locations shall be installed so as to prevent moisture or water from entering and accumulating within the enclosures. In wet locations the enclosures shall be weatherproof.
  - (b) Switches and circuit breakers. Switches, circuit breakers, and switchboards installed in wet locations shall be enclosed in weatherproof enclosures.
- (6) Conductors for general wiring. All conductors used for general wiring shall be insulated unless otherwise permitted in this part. The conductor insulation shall be of a type that is suitable for the voltage, operating temperature, and location of use. Insulated conductors shall be distinguishable by appropriate color or other means as being grounded conductors, ungrounded conductors, or equipment grounding conductors.

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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (7) Flexible cords and cables.
  - (a) Use of flexible cords and cables.
    - (i) Permitted uses. Flexible cords and cables shall be suitable for conditions of use and location. Flexible cords and cables shall be used only for:
      - (A) Pendants;
      - (B) Wiring of fixtures;
      - (C) Connection of portable lamps or appliances;
      - (D) Elevator cables;
      - (E) Wiring of cranes and hoists;
      - (F) Connection of stationary equipment to facilitate their frequent interchange;
      - (G) Prevention of the transmission of noise or vibration; or
      - (H) Appliances where the fastening means and mechanical connections are designed to permit removal for maintenance and repair.
    - (ii) Attachment plugs for cords. If used as permitted in (a)(i)(C), (F), or (H) of this subsection, the flexible cord shall be equipped with an attachment plug and shall be energized from a receptacle outlet.
    - (iii) Prohibited uses. Unless necessary for a use permitted in (a)(i) of this subsection, flexible cords and cables shall not be used:
      - (A) As a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure;
      - (B) Where run through holes in walls, ceilings, or floors;
      - (C) Where run through doorways, windows, or similar openings, except as permitted in subsection (1)(b)(ii)(I) of this section;
      - (D) Where attached to building surfaces; or
      - (E) Where concealed behind building walls, ceilings, or floors.
  - (b) Identification, splices, and terminations.
    - (i) Identification. A conductor of a flexible cord or cable that is used as a grounded conductor or an equipment grounding conductor shall be distinguishable from other conductors.
    - (ii) Marking. Type SJ, SJO, SJT, SJTO, S, SO, ST, and STO cords shall not be used unless durably marked on the surface with the type designation, size, and number of conductors.

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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (iii) Splices. Flexible cords shall be used only in continuous lengths without splice or tap. Hard service flexible cords No. 12 or larger may be repaired if spliced so that the splice retains the insulation, outer sheath properties, and usage characteristics of the cord being spliced.
  - (iv) Strain relief. Flexible cords shall be connected to devices and fittings so that strain relief is provided which will prevent pull from being directly transmitted to joints or terminal screws.
  - (v) Cords passing through holes. Flexible cords and cables shall be protected by bushings or fittings where passing through holes in covers, outlet boxes, or similar enclosures.
  - (vi) Trailing cables shall be protected from damage.
  - (vii) Cord and cable passing through work areas shall be covered or elevated to protect it from damage which would create a hazard to employees.
- (8) Portable cables over 600 volts, nominal. Multi-conductor portable cable for use in supplying power to portable or mobile equipment at over 600 volts, nominal, shall consist of No. 8 or larger conductors employing flexible stranding. Cables operated at over 2000 volts shall be shielded for the purpose of confining the voltage stresses to the insulation. Grounding conductors shall be provided. Connectors for these cables shall be of a locking type with provisions to prevent their opening or closing while energized. Strain relief shall be provided at connections and terminations. Portable cables shall not be operated with splices unless the splices are of the permanent molded, vulcanized, or other equivalent type. Termination enclosures shall be marked with a high voltage hazard warning, and terminations shall be accessible only to authorized and qualified personnel.
- (9) Fixture wires.
  - (a) General. Fixture wires shall be suitable for the voltage, temperature, and location of use. A fixture wire which is used as a grounded conductor shall be identified.
  - (b) Uses permitted. Fixture wires may be used:
    - (i) For installation in lighting, fixtures and in similar equipment where enclosed or protected and not subject to bending or twisting in use; or
    - (ii) For connecting lighting fixtures to the branch-circuit conductors supplying the fixtures.
  - (c) Uses not permitted. Fixture wires shall not be used as branch-circuit conductors except as permitted for Class 1 power-limited circuits.
- (10) Equipment for general use.
  - (a) Lighting fixtures, lampholders, lamps, and receptacles.
    - (i) Live parts. Fixtures, lampholders, lamps, rosettes, and receptacles shall have no live parts normally exposed to employee contact. However, rosettes and cleat-type lampholders and receptacles located at least 8 feet (2.44 m) above the floor may have exposed parts.

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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (ii) Support. Fixtures, lampholders, rosettes, and receptacles shall be securely supported. A fixture that weighs more than 6 pounds (2.72 kg) or exceeds 16 inches (406 mm) in any dimension shall not be supported by the screw shell of a lampholder.
  - (iii) Portable lamps. Portable lamps shall be wired with flexible cord and an attachment plug of the polarized or grounding type. If the portable lamp uses an Edison-based lampholder, the grounded conductor shall be identified and attached to the screw shell and the identified blade of the attachment plug. In addition, portable handlamps shall comply with the following:
    - (A) Metal shell, paperlined lampholders shall not be used;
    - (B) Handlamps shall be equipped with a handle of molded composition or other insulating material;
    - (C) Handlamps shall be equipped with a substantial guard attached to the lampholder or handle;
    - (D) Metallic guards shall be grounded by the means of an equipment grounding conductor run within the power supply cord.
  - (iv) Lampholders. Lampholders of the screw-shell type shall be installed for use as lampholders only. Lampholders installed in wet or damp locations shall be of the weatherproof type.
  - (v) Fixtures. Fixtures installed in wet or damp locations shall be identified for the purpose and shall be installed so that water cannot enter or accumulate in wireways, lampholders, or other electrical parts.
- (b) Receptacles, cord connectors, and attachment plugs (caps).
  - (i) Configuration. Receptacles, cord connectors, and attachment plugs shall be constructed so that no receptacle or cord connector will accept an attachment plug with a different voltage or current rating than that for which the device is intended. However, a 20-ampere T-slot receptacle or cord connector may accept a 15-ampere attachment plug of the same voltage rating. Receptacles connected to circuits having different voltages, frequencies, or types of current (AC or DC) on the same premises shall be of such design that the attachment plugs used on these circuits are not interchangeable.
  - (ii) Damp and wet locations. A receptacle installed in a wet or damp location shall be designed for the location.
- (c) Appliances.
  - (i) Live parts. Appliances, other than those in which the current-carrying parts at high temperatures are necessarily exposed, shall have no live parts normally exposed to employee contact.
  - (ii) Disconnecting means. A means shall be provided to disconnect each appliance.
  - (iii) Rating. Each appliance shall be marked with its rating in volts and amperes or volts and watts.



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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (d) Motors. This subdivision applies to motors, motor circuits, and controllers.
  - (i) In sight from. If specified that one piece of equipment shall be “in sight from” another piece of equipment, one shall be visible and not more than 50 feet (15.2 m) from the other.
  - (ii) Disconnecting means.
    - (A) A disconnecting means shall be located in sight from the controller location. The controller disconnecting means for motor branch circuits over 600 volts, nominal, may be out of sight of the controller, if the controller is marked with a warning label giving the location and identification of the disconnecting means which is to be locked in the open position.
    - (B) The disconnecting means shall disconnect the motor and the controller from all ungrounded supply conductors and shall be so designed that no pole can be operated independently.
    - (C) If a motor and the driven machinery are not in sight from the controller location, the installation shall comply with one of the following conditions:
      - (I) The controller disconnecting means shall be capable of being locked in the open position.
      - (II) A manually operable switch that will disconnect the motor from its source of supply shall be placed in sight from the motor location.
    - (D) The disconnecting means shall plainly indicate whether it is in the open (off) or closed (on) position.
    - (E) The disconnecting means shall be readily accessible. If more than one disconnect is provided for the same equipment, only one need be readily accessible.
    - (F) An individual disconnecting means shall be provided for each motor, but a single disconnecting means may be used for a group of motors under any one of the following conditions:
      - (I) If a number of motors drive special parts of a single machine or piece of apparatus, such as a metal or woodworking machine, crane, or hoist;
      - (II) If a group of motors is under the protection of one set of branch-circuit protective devices; or
      - (III) If a group of motors is in a single room in sight from the location of the disconnecting means.

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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (iii) Motor overload, short-circuit, and ground-fault protection. Motors, motor-control apparatus, and motor branch-circuit conductors shall be protected against overheating due to motor overloads or failure to start, and against short-circuits or ground faults. These provisions do not require overload protection that will stop a motor where a shutdown is likely to introduce additional or increased hazards, as in the case of fire pumps, or where continued operation of a motor is necessary for a safe shutdown of equipment or process and motor overload sensing devices are connected to a supervised alarm.
- (iv) Protection of live parts-all voltages.
  - (A) Stationary motors having commutators, collectors, and brush rigging located inside of motor end brackets and not conductively connected to supply circuits operating at more than 150 volts to ground need not have such parts guarded. Exposed live parts of motors and controllers operating at 50 volts or more between terminals shall be guarded against accidental contact by any of the following:
    - (I) By installation in a room or enclosure that is accessible only to qualified persons;
    - (II) By installation on a balcony, gallery, or platform, so elevated and arranged as to exclude unqualified persons; or
    - (III) By elevation 8 feet (2.44 m) or more above the floor.
  - (B) Where live parts of motors or controllers operating at over 150 volts to ground are guarded against accidental contact only by location, and where adjustment or other attendance may be necessary during the operation of the apparatus, insulating mats or platforms shall be provided so that the attendant cannot readily touch live parts unless standing on the mats or platforms.
- (e) Transformers.
  - (i) Application. The following subsections cover the installation of all transformers, except:
    - (A) Current transformers;
    - (B) Dry-type transformers installed as a component part of other apparatus;
    - (C) Transformers which are an integral part of an x-ray, high frequency, or electrostatic-coating apparatus;
    - (D) Transformers used with Class 2 and Class 3 circuits, sign and outline lighting, electric discharge lighting, and power-limited fire-protective signaling circuits.
  - (ii) Operating voltage. The operating voltage of exposed live parts of transformer installations shall be indicated by warning signs or visible markings on the equipment or structure.
  - (iii) Transformers over 35 kV. Dry-type, high fire point liquid-insulated, and askarel-insulated transformers installed indoors and rated over 35 kV shall be in a vault.

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**WAC 296-155-449 (Cont.)**

- (iv) Oil-insulated transformers. If they present a fire hazard to employees, oil-insulated transformers installed indoors shall be in a vault.
- (v) Fire protection. Combustible material, combustible buildings and parts of buildings, fire escapes, and door and window openings shall be safeguarded from fires which may originate in oil-insulated transformers attached to or adjacent to a building or combustible material.
- (vi) Transformer vaults. Transformer vaults shall be constructed so as to contain fire and combustible liquids within the vault and to prevent unauthorized access. Locks and latches shall be so arranged that a vault door can be readily opened from the inside.
- (vii) Pipes and ducts. Any pipe or duct system foreign to the vault installation shall not enter or pass through a transformer vault.
- (viii) Material storage. Materials shall not be stored in transformer vaults.
- (f) Capacitors.
  - (i) Drainage of stored charge. All capacitors, except surge capacitors or capacitors included as a component part of other apparatus, shall be provided with an automatic means of draining the stored charge and maintaining the discharged state after the capacitor is disconnected from its source of supply.
  - (ii) Over 600 volts. Capacitors rated over 600 volts, nominal, shall comply with the following additional requirements:
    - (A) Isolating or disconnecting switches (with no interrupting rating) shall be interlocked with the load interrupting device or shall be provided with prominently displayed caution signs to prevent switching load current.
    - (B) For series capacitors the proper switching shall be assured by use of at least one of the following:
      - (I) Mechanically sequenced isolating and bypass switches;
      - (II) Interlocks; or
      - (III) Switching procedure prominently displayed at the switching location.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 93-19-142 (Order 93-04), § 296-155-449, filed 9/22/93, effective 11/1/93; 92-23-017 (Order 92-13), § 296-155-449, filed 11/10/92, effective 12/18/92; 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-449, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-452 Specific purpose equipment and installations.**

- (1) Cranes and hoists. This subsection applies to the installation of electric equipment and wiring used in connection with cranes, monorail hoists, hoists, and all runways.
  - (a) Disconnecting means.

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**WAC 296-155-452 (Cont.)**

- (i) Runway conductor disconnecting means. A readily accessible disconnecting means shall be provided between the runway contact conductors and the power supply.
    - (ii) Disconnecting means for cranes and monorail hoists. A disconnecting means, capable of being locked in the open position, shall be provided in the leads from the runway contact conductors or other power supply on any crane or monorail hoist.
      - (A) If this additional disconnecting means is not readily accessible from the crane or monorail hoist operating station, means shall be provided at the operating station to open the power circuit to all motors of the crane or monorail hoist.
      - (B) The additional disconnect may be omitted if a monorail hoist or hand-propelled crane bridge installation meets all of the following:
        - (I) The unit is floor controlled;
        - (II) The unit is within view of the power supply disconnecting means; and
        - (III) No fixed work platform has been provided for servicing the unit.
  - (b) Control. A limit switch or other device shall be provided to prevent the load block from passing the safe upper limit of travel of any hoisting mechanism.
  - (c) Clearance. The dimension of the working space in the direction of access to live parts which may require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while alive shall be a minimum of 2 feet 6 inches (762 mm). Where controls are enclosed in cabinets, the door(s) shall open at least 90 degrees or be removable, or the installation shall provide equivalent access.
  - (d) Grounding. All exposed metal parts of cranes, monorail hoists, hoists and accessories including pendant controls shall be metallically joined together into a continuous electrical conductor so that the entire crane or hoist will be grounded in accordance with WAC 296-155-447(6). Moving parts, other than removable accessories or attachments, having metal-to-metal bearing surfaces shall be considered to be electrically connected to each other through the bearing surfaces for grounding purposes. The trolley frame and bridge frame shall be considered as electrically grounded through the bridge and trolley wheels and its respective tracks unless conditions such as paint or other insulating materials prevent reliable metal-to-metal contact. In this case a separate bonding conductor shall be provided.
- (2) Elevators, escalators, and moving walks.
- (a) Disconnecting means. Elevators, escalators, and moving walks shall have a single means for disconnecting all ungrounded main power supply conductors for each unit.
  - (b) Control panels. If control panels are not located in the same space as the drive machine, they shall be located in cabinets with doors or panels capable of being locked closed.
- (3) Electric welders-disconnecting means.
- (a) Motor-generator, AC transformer, and DC rectifier arc welders. A disconnecting means shall be provided in the supply circuit for each motor-generator arc welder, and for each AC transformer and DC rectifier arc welder which is not equipped with a disconnect mounted as an integral part of the welder.

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**WAC 296-155-452 (Cont.)**

- (b) Resistance welders. A switch or circuit breaker shall be provided by which each resistance welder and its control equipment can be isolated from the supply circuit. The ampere rating of this disconnecting means shall not be less than the supply conductor ampacity.
- (4) X-ray equipment.
  - (a) Disconnecting means.
    - (i) General. A disconnecting means shall be provided in the supply circuit. The disconnecting means shall be operable from a location readily accessible from the x-ray control. For equipment connected to a 120-volt branch circuit of 30 amperes or less, a grounding-type attachment plug cap and receptacle of proper rating may serve as a disconnecting means.
    - (ii) More than one piece of equipment. If more than one piece of equipment is operated from the same high-voltage circuit, each piece or each group of equipment as a unit shall be provided with a high-voltage switch or equivalent disconnecting means. This disconnecting means shall be constructed, enclosed, or located so as to avoid contact by employees with its live parts.
  - (b) Control-radiographic and fluoroscopic types. Radiographic and fluoroscopic-type equipment shall be effectively enclosed or shall have interlocks that deenergize the equipment automatically to prevent ready access to live current-carrying parts.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 06-05-027 (Order 05-45), § 296-155-452, filed 02/07/06, effective 04/01/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-452, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-456 Hazardous (classified) locations.**

- (1) Scope. This section sets forth requirements for electric equipment and wiring in locations which are classified depending on the properties of the flammable vapors, liquids or gases, or combustible dusts or fibers which may be present therein and the likelihood that a flammable or combustible concentration or quantity is present. Each room, section or area shall be considered individually in determining its classification. These hazardous (classified) locations are assigned six designations as follows: Class I, Division 1; Class I, Division 2; Class II, Division 1; Class II, Division 2; Class III, Division 1; Class III, Division 2. For definitions of these locations see WAC 296-155-428. All applicable requirements in this part apply to all hazardous (classified) locations, unless modified by provisions of this section.
  - (a) All components and utilization equipment used in a hazardous location shall be chosen from among those listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., or Factory Mutual Engineering Corp., except custom-made components and utilization equipment.
  - (b) Equipment approved for a specific hazardous location shall not be installed or intermixed with equipment approved for another specific hazardous location.
- (2) Electrical installations. Equipment, wiring methods, and installations of equipment in hazardous (classified) locations shall be approved as intrinsically safe or approved for the hazardous (classified) location or safe for the hazardous (classified) location. Requirements for each of these options are as follows:
  - (a) Intrinsically safe. Equipment and associated wiring approved as intrinsically safe is permitted in any hazardous (classified) location included in its listing or labeling.

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**WAC 296-155-456 (Cont.)**

- (b) Approved for the hazardous (classified) location.
  - (i) General. Equipment shall be approved not only for the class of location but also for the ignitable or combustible properties of the specific gas, vapor, dust, or fiber that will be present.

*Note: NFPA 70, the National Electrical Code, lists or defines hazardous gases, vapors, and dusts by “groups” characterized by their ignitable or combustible properties.*

- (ii) Marking. Equipment shall not be used unless it is marked to show the class, group, and operating temperature or temperature range, based on operation in a 40°C ambient, for which it is approved. The temperature marking shall not exceed the ignition temperature of the specific gas, vapor, or dust to be encountered. However, the following provisions modify this marking requirement for specific equipment:
    - (A) Equipment of the nonheat-producing type (such as junction boxes, conduit, and fitting) and equipment of the heat-producing type having a maximum temperature of not more than 100°C (212°F) need not have a marked operating temperature or temperature range.
    - (B) Fixed lighting fixtures marked for use only in Class I, Division 2 locations need not be marked to indicate the group.
    - (C) Fixed general-purpose equipment in Class I locations, other than lighting fixtures, which is acceptable for use in Class I, Division 2 locations need not be marked with the class, group, division, or operating temperature.
    - (D) Fixed dust-tight equipment, other than lighting fixtures, which is acceptable for use in Class II, Division 2 and Class III locations need not be marked with the class, group, division, or operating temperature.
  - (c) Safe for the hazardous (classified) location. Equipment which is safe for the location shall be of a type and design which the employer demonstrates will provide protection from the hazards arising from the combustibility and flammability of vapors, liquids, gases, dusts, or fibers.

*Note: The National Electrical Code, NFPA 70, contains guidelines for determining the type and design of equipment and installations which will meet this requirement. The guidelines of this document address electric wiring, equipment, and systems installed in hazardous (classified) locations and contain specific provisions for the following: Wiring methods, wiring connections, conductor insulation, flexible cords, sealing and drainage, transformers, capacitors, switches, circuit breakers, fuses, motor controllers, receptacles, attachment plugs, meters, relays, instruments, resistors, generators, motors, lighting fixtures, storage battery charging equipment, electric cranes, electric hoists and similar equipment, utilization equipment, signaling systems, alarm systems, remote control systems, local loud speaker and communication systems, ventilation piping, live parts, lightning surge protection, and grounding. Compliance with these guidelines will constitute one means, but not the only means, of compliance with this subsection.*

- (3) Conduits. All conduits shall be threaded and shall be made wrench-tight. Where it is impractical to make a threaded joint tight, a bonding jumper shall be utilized.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-456, filed 5/11/88.]

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**WAC 296-155-459 Special systems.**

- (1) Systems over 600 volts, nominal. (a) through (d) of this subsection contain general requirements for all circuits and equipment operated at over 600 volts.
  - (a) Wiring methods for fixed installations.
    - (i) Above ground. Above-ground conductors shall be installed in rigid metal conduit, in intermediate metal conduit, in cable trays, in cablebus, in other suitable raceways, or as open runs of metal-clad cable designed for the use and purpose. However, open runs of nonmetallic-sheathed cable or of bare conductors or busbars may be installed in locations which are accessible only to qualified persons. Metallic shielding components, such as tapes, wires, or braids for conductors, shall be grounded. Open runs of insulated wires and cables having a bare lead sheath or a braided outer covering shall be supported in a manner designed to prevent physical damage to the braid or sheath.
    - (ii) Installations emerging from the ground. Conductors emerging from the ground shall be enclosed in raceways. Raceways installed on poles shall be of rigid metal conduit, intermediate metal conduit, PVC schedule 80 or equivalent extending from the ground line up to a point 8 feet (2.44 m) above finished grade. Conductors entering a building shall be protected by an enclosure from the ground line to the point of entrance. Metallic enclosures shall be grounded.
  - (b) Interrupting and isolating devices.
    - (i) Circuit breakers. Circuit breakers located indoors shall consist of metal-enclosed or fire-resistant, cell-mounted units. In locations accessible only to qualified personnel, open mounting of circuit breakers is permitted. A means of indicating the open and closed position of circuit breakers shall be provided.
    - (ii) Fused cutouts. Fused cutouts installed in buildings or transformer vaults shall be of a type identified for the purpose. They shall be readily accessible for fuse replacement.
    - (iii) Equipment isolating means. A means shall be provided to completely isolate equipment for inspection and repairs. Isolating means which are not designed to interrupt the load current of the circuit shall be either interlocked with a circuit interrupter or provided with a sign warning against opening them under load.
  - (c) Mobile and portable equipment.
    - (i) Power cable connections to mobile machines. A metallic enclosure shall be provided on the mobile machine for enclosing the terminals of the power cable. The enclosure shall include provisions for a solid connection for the ground wire(s) terminal to ground effectively the machine frame. The method of cable termination used shall prevent any strain or pull on the cable from stressing the electrical connections. The enclosure shall have provision for locking so only authorized qualified persons may open it and shall be marked with a sign warning of the presence of energized parts.

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**WAC 296-155-459 (Cont.)**

- (ii) Guarding live parts. All energized switching and control parts shall be enclosed in effectively grounded metal cabinets or enclosures. Circuit breakers and protective equipment shall have the operating means projecting through the metal cabinet or enclosure so these units can be reset without locked doors being opened. Enclosures and metal cabinets shall be locked so that only authorized qualified persons have access and shall be marked with a sign warning of the presence of energized parts. Collector ring assemblies on revolving-type machines (shovels, draglines, etc.) shall be guarded.
- (d) Tunnel installations.
  - (i) Application. The provisions of this item apply to installation and use of high-voltage power distribution and utilization equipment which is associated with tunnels and which is portable and/or mobile, such as substations, trailers, cars, mobile shovels, draglines, hoists, drills, dredges, compressors, pumps, conveyors, and underground excavators.
  - (ii) Conductors. Conductors in tunnels shall be installed in one or more of the following:
    - (A) Metal conduit or other metal raceway;
    - (B) Type MC cable; or
    - (C) Other suitable multiconductor cable.

Conductors shall also be so located or guarded as to protect them from physical damage. Multiconductor portable cable may supply mobile equipment. An equipment grounding conductor shall be run with circuit conductors inside the metal raceway or inside the multiconductor cable jacket. The equipment grounding conductor may be insulated or bare.
  - (iii) Guarding live parts. Bare terminals of transformers, switches, motor controllers, and other equipment shall be enclosed to prevent accidental contact with energized parts. Enclosures for use in tunnels shall be drip-proof, weatherproof, or submersible as required by the environmental conditions.
  - (iv) Disconnecting means. A disconnecting means that simultaneously opens all ungrounded conductors shall be installed at each transformer or motor location.
  - (v) Grounding and bonding. All nonenergized metal parts of electric equipment and metal raceways and cable sheaths shall be grounded and bonded to all metal pipes and rails at the portal and at intervals not exceeding 1000 feet (305 m) throughout the tunnel.
- (2) Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 remote control, signaling, and power-limited circuits.
  - (a) Classification. Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 remote control, signaling, or power-limited circuits are characterized by their usage and electrical power limitation which differentiates them from light and power circuits. These circuits are classified in accordance with their respective voltage and power limitations as summarized in (a)(i) through (iii) of this subsection.
    - (i) Class 1 circuits.
      - (A) A Class 1 power-limited circuit is supplied from a source having a rated output of not more than 30 volts and 1000 volt-amperes.



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**WAC 296-155-459 (Cont.)**

- (B) A Class 1 remote control circuit or a Class 1 signaling circuit has a voltage which does not exceed 600 volts; however, the power output of the source need not be limited.
    - (ii) Class 2 and Class 3 circuits.
      - (A) Power for Class 2 and Class 3 circuits is limited either inherently (in which no overcurrent protection is required) or by a combination of a power source and overcurrent protection.
      - (B) The maximum circuit voltage is 150 volts AC or DC for a Class 2 inherently limited power source, and 100 volts AC or DC for a Class 3 inherently limited power source.
      - (C) The maximum circuit voltage is 30 volts AC and 60 volts DC for a Class 2 power source limited by overcurrent protection, and 150 volts AC or DC for a Class 3 power source limited by overcurrent protection.
    - (iii) Application. The maximum circuit voltages in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection apply to sinusoidal AC or continuous DC power sources, and where wet contact occurrence is not likely.
  - (b) Marking. A Class 2 or Class 3 power supply unit shall not be used unless it is durably marked where plainly visible to indicate the class of supply and its electrical rating.
- (3) Communications systems.
- (a) Scope. These provisions for communication systems apply to such systems as central-station-connected and noncentral-station-connected telephone circuits, radio receiving and transmitting equipment, and outside wiring for fire and burglar alarm, and similar central station systems. These installations need not comply with the provisions of WAC 296-155-444 through 296-155-459(2), except WAC 296-155-447 (3)(a)(ii) and 296-155-456.
  - (b) Protective devices.
    - (i) Circuits exposed to power conductors. Communication circuits so located as to be exposed to accidental contact with light or power conductors operating at over 300 volts shall have each circuit so exposed provided with an approved protector.
    - (ii) Antenna lead-ins. Each conductor of a lead-in from an outdoor antenna shall be provided with an antenna discharge unit or other means that will drain static charges from the antenna system.
  - (c) Conductor location.
    - (i) Outside of buildings.
      - (A) Receiving distribution lead-in or aerial-drop cables attached to buildings and lead-in conductors to radio transmitters shall be so installed as to avoid the possibility of accidental contact with electric light or power conductors.

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**WAC 296-155-459 (Cont.)**

- (B) The clearance between lead-in conductors and any lightning protection conductors shall not be less than 6 feet (1.83 m).
- (ii) On poles. Where practicable, communication conductors on poles shall be located below the light or power conductors. Communications conductors shall not be attached to a crossarm that carries light or power conductors.
- (iii) Inside of buildings. Indoor antennas, lead-ins, and other communication conductors attached as open conductors to the inside of buildings shall be located at least 2 inches (50.8 mm) from conductors of any light or power or Class 1 circuits unless a special and equally protective method of conductor separation is employed.
- (d) Equipment location. Outdoor metal structures supporting antennas, as well as self-supporting antennas such as vertical rods or dipole structures, shall be located as far away from overhead conductors of electric light and power circuits of over 150 volts to ground as necessary to avoid the possibility of the antenna or structure falling into or making accidental contact with such circuits.
- (e) Grounding.
  - (i) Lead-in conductors. If exposed to contact with electric light or power conductors, the metal sheath of aerial cables entering buildings shall be grounded or shall be interrupted close to the entrance to the building by an insulating joint or equivalent device. Where protective devices are used, they shall be grounded.
  - (ii) Antenna structures. Masts and metal structures supporting antennas shall be permanently and effectively grounded without splice or connection in the grounding conductor.
  - (iii) Equipment enclosures. Transmitters shall be enclosed in a metal frame or grill or separated from the operating space by a barrier, all metallic parts of which are effectively connected to ground. All external metal handles and controls accessible to the operating personnel shall be effectively grounded. Unpowered equipment and enclosures shall be considered grounded where connected to an attached coaxial cable with an effectively grounded metallic shield.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 93-19-142 (Order 93-04), § 296-155-459, filed 9/22/93, effective 11/1/93; 88-11-021 (Order 88-04), § 296-155-459, filed 5/11/88.]

**WAC 296-155-462 Definitions applicable to this part.** The definitions given in this section apply to the terms used in Part I. The definitions given here for “approved” and “qualified person” apply, instead of the definitions given in WAC 296-155-012, to the use of these terms in Part I.

- (1) **“Acceptable.”** An installation or equipment is acceptable to the director, and approved within the meaning of this Part I:
  - (a) If it is accepted, certified, listed, labeled, or otherwise determined to be safe by a qualified testing laboratory capable of determining the suitability of materials and equipment for installation and use in accordance with this standard; or
  - (b) With respect to an installation or equipment of a kind which no qualified testing laboratory accepts, certifies, lists, labels, or determines to be safe, if it is inspected or tested by another state agency, or by a federal, municipal, or other local authority responsible for enforcing occupational safety provisions of the National Electrical Code, and found in compliance with those provisions; or

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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

- (c) With respect to custom-made equipment or related installations which are designed, fabricated for, and intended for use by a particular customer, if it is determined to be safe for its intended use by its manufacturer on the basis of test data which the employer keeps and makes available for inspection to the director and his/her authorized representatives.
- (2) **“Accepted.”** An installation is “accepted” if it has been inspected and found to be safe by a qualified testing laboratory.
- (3) **“Accessible.”** (As applied to wiring methods.) Capable of being removed or exposed without damaging the building structure or finish, or not permanently closed in by the structure or finish of the building. (See “concealed” and “exposed.”)
- (4) **“Accessible.”** (As applied to equipment.) Admitting close approach; not guarded by locked doors, elevation, or other effective means. (See “readily accessible.”)
- (5) **“Ampacity.”** The current in amperes a conductor can carry continuously under the conditions of use without exceeding its temperature rating.
- (6) **“Appliances.”** Utilization equipment, generally other than industrial, normally built in standardized sizes or types, which is installed or connected as a unit to perform one or more functions.
- (7) **“Approved.”** Approved by the director of the department of labor and industries or his/her authorized representative: Provided, however, That should a provision of this chapter state that approval by an agency or organization other than the department of labor and industries is required, such as Underwriters' Laboratories, the Bureau of Mines, or Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) the provisions of WAC 296-155-006 shall apply.
- (8) **“Askarel.”** A generic term for a group of nonflammable synthetic chlorinated hydrocarbons used as electrical insulating media. Askarels of various compositional types are used. Under arcing conditions the gases produced, while consisting predominantly of noncombustible hydrogen chloride, can include varying amounts of combustible gases depending upon the askarel type.
- (9) **“Attachment plug (plug cap) (cap).”** A device which, by insertion in a receptacle, establishes connection between the conductors of the attached flexible cord and the conductors connected permanently to the receptacle.
- (10) **“Automatic.”** Self-acting, operating by its own mechanism when actuated by some impersonal influence, as for example, a change in current strength, pressure, temperature, or mechanical configuration.
- (11) **“Bare conductor.”** See “conductor.”
- (12) **“Bonding.”** The permanent joining of metallic parts to form an electrically conductive path which will assure electrical continuity and the capacity to conduct safely any current likely to be imposed.
- (13) **“Bonding jumper.”** A reliable conductor to assure the required electrical conductivity between metal parts required to be electrically connected.
- (14) **“Branch circuits.”** That portion of a wiring system extending beyond the final overcurrent device protecting the circuit. (A device not approved for branch circuit protection, such as thermal cutout or motor overload protective device, is not considered as the overcurrent device protecting the circuit.)

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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

- (15) **“Building.”** A structure which stands alone or which is cut off from adjoining structures by fire walls with all openings therein protected by approved fire doors.
- (16) **“Cabinet.”** An enclosure designed either for surface or flush mounting, and provided with a frame, mat, or trim in which a swinging door or doors are or may be hung.
- (17) **“Certified.”** Equipment is “certified” if it:
  - (a) Has been tested and found by a qualified testing laboratory to meet applicable test standards or to be safe for use in a specified manner; and
  - (b) Is of a kind whose production is periodically inspected by a qualified testing laboratory. Certified equipment must bear a label, tag, or other record of certification.
- (18) **“Circuit breaker.”**
  - (a) (600 volts nominal, or less.) A device designed to open and close a circuit by nonautomatic means and to open the circuit automatically on a predetermined overcurrent without injury to itself when properly applied within its rating.
  - (b) (Over 600 volts, nominal.) A switching device capable of making, carrying, and breaking currents under normal circuit conditions, and also making, carrying for a specified time, and breaking currents under specified abnormal circuit conditions, such as those of short circuit.
- (19) **“Class I locations.”** Class I locations are those in which flammable gases or vapors are or may be present in the air in quantities sufficient to produce explosive or ignitable mixtures. Class I locations include the following:
  - (a) Class I, Division 1. A Class I, Division 1 location is a location:
    - (i) In which ignitable concentrations of flammable gases or vapors may exist under normal operating conditions; or
    - (ii) In which ignitable concentrations of such gases or vapors may exist frequently because of repair or maintenance operations or because of leakage; or
    - (iii) In which breakdown or faulty operation of equipment or processes might release ignitable concentrations of flammable gases or vapors, and might also cause simultaneous failure of electric equipment.

*Note: This classification usually includes locations where volatile flammable liquids or liquefied flammable gases are transferred from one container to another; interiors of spray booths and areas in the vicinity of spraying and painting operations where volatile flammable solvents are used; locations containing open tanks or vats of volatile flammable liquids; drying rooms or compartments for the evaporation of flammable solvents; inadequately ventilated pump rooms for flammable gas or for volatile flammable liquids; and all other locations where ignitable concentrations of flammable vapors or gases are likely to occur in the course of normal operations.*

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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

- (b) Class I, Division 2. A Class I, Division 2 location is a location:
- (i) In which volatile flammable liquids or flammable gases are handled, processed, or used, but in which the hazardous liquids, vapors, or gases will normally be confined within closed containers or closed systems from which they can escape only in case of accidental rupture or breakdown of such containers or systems, or in case of abnormal operation of equipment; or
  - (ii) In which ignitable concentrations of gases or vapors are normally prevented by positive mechanical ventilation, and which might become hazardous through failure or abnormal operations of the ventilating equipment; or
  - (iii) That is adjacent to a Class I, Division 1 location, and to which ignitable concentrations of gases or vapors might occasionally be communicated unless such communication is prevented by adequate positive-pressure ventilation from a source of clean air, and effective safeguards against ventilation failure are provided.

*Note: This classification usually includes locations where volatile flammable liquids or flammable gases or vapors are used, but which would become hazardous only in case of an accident or of some unusual operating condition. The quantity of flammable material that might escape in case of accident, the adequacy of ventilating equipment, the total area involved, and the record of the industry or business with respect to explosions or fires are all factors that merit consideration in determining the classification and extent of each location.*

Piping without valves, checks, meters, and similar devices would not ordinarily introduce a hazardous condition even though used for flammable liquids or gases. Locations used for the storage of flammable liquids or of liquefied or compressed gases in sealed containers would not normally be considered hazardous unless also subject to other hazardous conditions.

Electrical conduits and their associated enclosures separated from process fluids by a single seal or barrier are classed as a Division 2 location if the outside of the conduit and enclosures is a nonhazardous location.

- (20) **“Class II locations.”** Class II locations are those that are hazardous because of the presence of combustible dust. Class II locations include the following:
- (a) Class II, Division 1. A Class II, Division 1 location is a location:
- (i) In which combustible dust is or may be in suspension in the air under normal operating conditions, in quantities sufficient to produce explosive or ignitable mixtures; or
  - (ii) Where mechanical failure or abnormal operation of machinery or equipment might cause such explosive or ignitable mixtures to be produced, and might also provide a source of ignition through simultaneous failure of electric equipment, operation of protection devices, or from other causes; or
  - (iii) In which combustible dusts of an electrically conductive nature may be present.

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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

*Note: Combustible dusts which are electrically nonconductive include dusts produced in the handling and processing of grain and grain products, pulverized sugar and cocoa, dried egg and milk powders, pulverized spices, starch and pastes, potato and woodflour, oil meal from beans and seed, dried hay, and other organic materials which may produce combustible dusts when processed or handled. Dusts containing magnesium or aluminum are particularly hazardous and the use of extreme caution is necessary to avoid ignition and explosion.*

- (b) Class II, Division 2. A Class II, Division 2 location is a location in which:
- (i) Combustible dust will not normally be in suspension in the air in quantities sufficient to produce explosive or ignitable mixtures, and dust accumulations are normally insufficient to interfere with the normal operation of electrical equipment or other apparatus; or
  - (ii) Dust may be in suspension in the air as a result of infrequent malfunctioning of handling or processing equipment, and dust accumulations resulting therefrom may be ignitable by abnormal operation or failure of electrical equipment or other apparatus.

*Note: This classification includes locations where dangerous concentrations of suspended dust would not be likely but where dust accumulations might form on or in the vicinity of electric equipment. These areas may contain equipment from which appreciable quantities of dust would escape under abnormal operating conditions or be adjacent to a Class II, Division 1 location, as described above, into which an explosive or ignitable concentration of dust may be put into suspension under abnormal operating conditions.*

- (21) **“Class III locations.”** Class III locations are those that are hazardous because of the presence of easily ignitable fibers or flyings but in which such fibers or flyings are not likely to be in suspension in the air in quantities sufficient to produce ignitable mixtures. Class III locations include the following:

- (a) Class III, Division 1. A Class III, Division 1 location is a location in which easily ignitable fibers or materials producing combustible flyings are handled, manufactured, or used.

*Note: Easily ignitable fibers and flyings include rayon, cotton (including cotton linters and cotton waste), sisal or henequen, istle, jute, hemp, tow, cocoa fiber, oakum, baled waste kapok, Spanish moss, excelsior, sawdust, woodchips, and other material of similar nature.*

- (b) Class III, Division 2. A Class III, Division 2 location is a location in which easily ignitable fibers are stored or handled, except in process of manufacture. Collector ring. A collector ring is an assembly of slip rings for transferring electrical energy from a stationary to a rotating member.

- (22) **“Collector ring.”** A collector ring is an assembly of slip rings for transferring electrical energy from a stationary to a rotating member.

- (23) **“Concealed.”** Rendered inaccessible by the structure or finish of the building. Wires in concealed raceways are considered concealed, even though they may become accessible by withdrawing them. See “accessible. (As applied to wiring methods.)”

- (24) **“Conductor.”**

- (a) **Bare.** A conductor having no covering or electrical insulation whatsoever.
- (b) **Covered.** A conductor encased within material of composition or thickness that is not recognized as electrical insulation.

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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

- (c) **Insulated.** A conductor encased within material of composition and thickness that is recognized as electrical insulation.
- (25) **“Controller.”** A device or group of devices that serves to govern, in some predetermined manner, the electric power delivered to the apparatus to which it is connected.
- (26) **“Covered conductor.”** See “conductor.”
- (27) **“Cutout.”** (Over 600 volts, nominal.) An assembly of a fuse support with either a fuseholder, fuse carrier, or disconnecting blade. The fuseholder or fuse carrier may include a conducting element (fuse link), or may act as the disconnecting blade by the inclusion of a nonfusible member.
- (28) **“Cutout box.”** An enclosure designed for surface mounting and having swinging doors or covers secured directly to and telescoping with the walls of the box proper. (See “cabinet.”)
- (29) **“Damp location.”** See “location.”
- (30) **“Dead front.”** Without live parts exposed to a person on the operating side of the equipment.
- (31) **“Device.”** A unit of an electrical system which is intended to carry but not utilize electric energy.
- (32) **“Disconnecting means.”** A device, or group of devices, or other means by which the conductors of a circuit can be disconnected from their source of supply.
- (33) **“Disconnecting (or isolating) switch.”** (Over 600 volts, nominal.) A mechanical switching device used for isolating a circuit or equipment from a source of power.
- (34) **“Dry location.”** See “location.”
- (35) **“Enclosed.”** Surrounded by a case, housing, fence or walls which will prevent persons from accidentally contacting energized parts.
- (36) **“Enclosure.”** The case or housing of apparatus, or the fence or walls surrounding an installation to prevent personnel from accidentally contacting energized parts, or to protect the equipment from physical damage.
- (37) **“Equipment.”** A general term including material, fittings, devices, appliances, fixtures, apparatus, and the like, used as a part of, or in connection with, an electrical installation.
- (38) **“Equipment grounding conductor.”** See “grounding conductor, equipment.”
- (39) **“Explosion-proof apparatus.”** Apparatus enclosed in a case that is capable of withstanding an explosion of a specified gas or vapor which may occur within it and of preventing the ignition of a specified gas or vapor surrounding the enclosure by sparks, flashes, or explosion of the gas or vapor within, and which operates at such an external temperature that it will not ignite a surrounding flammable atmosphere.
- (40) **“Exposed. (As applied to live parts.)”** Capable of being inadvertently touched or approached nearer than a safe distance by a person. It is applied to parts not suitably guarded, isolated, or insulated. (See “accessible” and “concealed.”)
- (41) **“Exposed. (As applied to wiring methods.)”** On or attached to the surface or behind panels designed to allow access. See “accessible. (As applied to wiring methods.)”

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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

- (42) **“Exposed. (For the purposes of WAC 296-155-459(3), Communications systems.)”** Where the circuit is in such a position that in case of failure of supports or insulation, contact with another circuit may result.
- (43) **“Externally operable.”** Capable of being operated without exposing the operator to contact with live parts.
- (44) **“Feeder.”** All circuit conductors between the service equipment, or the generator switchboard of an isolated plant, and the final branch-circuit overcurrent device.
- (45) **“Festoon lighting.”** A string of outdoor lights suspended between two points more than 15 feet (4.57 m) apart.
- (46) **“Fitting.”** An accessory such as a locknut, bushing, or other part of a wiring system that is intended primarily to perform a mechanical rather than an electrical function.
- (47) **“Fuse.”** (Over 600 volts, nominal.) An overcurrent protective device with a circuit opening fusible part that is heated and severed by the passage of overcurrent through it. A fuse comprises all the parts that form a unit capable of performing the prescribed functions. It may or may not be the complete device necessary to connect it into an electrical circuit.
- (48) **“Ground.”** A conducting connection, whether intentional or accidental, between an electrical circuit or equipment and the earth, or to some conducting body that serves in place of the earth.
- (49) **“Grounded.”** Connected to earth or to some conducting body that serves in place of the earth.
- (50) **“Grounded, effectively.”** (Over 600 volts, nominal.) Permanently connected to earth through a ground connection of sufficiently low impedance and having sufficient ampacity that ground fault current which may occur cannot build up to voltages dangerous to personnel.
- (51) **“Grounded conductor.”** A system or circuit conductor that is intentionally grounded.
- (52) **“Grounding conductor.”** A conductor used to connect equipment or the grounded circuit of a wiring system to a grounding electrode or electrodes.
- (53) **“Grounding conductor, equipment.”** The conductor used to connect the noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment, raceways, and other enclosures to the system grounded conductor and/or the grounding electrode conductor at the service equipment or at the source of a separately derived system.
- (54) **“Grounding electrode conductor.”** The conductor used to connect the grounding electrode to the equipment grounding conductor and/or to the grounded conductor of the circuit at the service equipment or at the source of a separately derived system.
- (55) **“Ground-fault circuit interrupter.”** A device for the protection of personnel that functions to deenergize a circuit or portion thereof within an established period of time when a current to ground exceeds some predetermined value that is less than that required to operate the overcurrent protective device of the supply circuit.
- (56) **“Guarded.”** Covered, shielded, fenced, enclosed, or otherwise protected by means of suitable covers, casings, barriers, rails, screens, mats, or platforms to remove the likelihood of approach to a point of danger or contact by persons or objects.



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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

- (57) **“Hazard.”** That condition, potential or inherent, which is likely to cause injury, death, or occupational disease.
- (58) **“Hoistway.”** Any shaftway, hatchway, well hole, or other vertical opening or space in which an elevator or dumbwaiter is designed to operate.
- (59) **“Identified (conductors or terminals).”** Identified, as used in reference to a conductor or its terminal, means that such conductor or terminal can be recognized as grounded.
- (60) **“Identified (for the use).”** Recognized as suitable for the specific purpose, function, use, environment, application, etc., where described as a requirement in this standard. Suitability of equipment for a specific purpose, environment, or application is determined by a qualified testing laboratory where such identification includes labeling or listing.
- (61) **“Insulated conductor.”** See conductor.”
- (62) **“Interrupter switch.”** (Over 600 volts, nominal.) A switch capable of making, carrying, and interrupting specified currents.
- (63) **“Intrinsically safe equipment and associated wiring.”** Equipment and associated wiring in which any spark or thermal effect, produced either normally or in specified fault conditions, is incapable, under certain prescribed test conditions, of causing ignition of a mixture of flammable or combustible material in air in its most easily ignitable concentration.
- (64) **“Isolated.”** Not readily accessible to persons unless special means for access are used.
- (65) **“Isolated power system.”** A system comprising an isolating transformer or its equivalent, a line isolation monitor, and its ungrounded circuit conductors.
- (66) **“J-Box (junction box).”** An electrical sheet metal enclosure with openings for conduit or cable with sheet metal cover. The primary purpose is for joining conductors for splicing.
- (67) **“Labeled.”** Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol or other identifying mark of a qualified testing laboratory which indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.
- (68) **“Lighting outlet.”** An outlet intended for the direct connection of a lampholder, a lighting fixture, or a pendant cord terminating in a lampholder.
- (69) **“Listed.”** Equipment or materials included in a list published by a qualified testing laboratory whose listing states either that the equipment or material meets appropriate standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specified manner.
- (70) **“Location.”**
  - (a) **Damp location.** Partially protected locations under canopies, marquees, roofed open porches, and like locations, and interior locations subject to moderate degrees of moisture, such as some basements.

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**WAC 296-155-462 (Cont.)**

- (b) **Dry location.** A location not normally subject to dampness or wetness. A location classified as dry may be temporarily subject to dampness or wetness, as in the case of a building under construction.
- (c) **Wet location.** Installations underground or in concrete slabs or masonry in direct contact with the earth, and locations subject to saturation with water or other liquids, such as locations exposed to weather and unprotected.
- (71) **“Mobile x-ray.”** X-ray equipment mounted on a permanent base with wheels and/or casters for moving while completely assembled.
- (72) **“Motor control center.”** An assembly of one or more enclosed sections having a common power bus and principally containing motor control units.
- (73) **“Outlet.”** A point on the wiring system at which current is taken to supply utilization equipment.
- (74) **“Overcurrent.”** Any current in excess of the rated current of equipment or the ampacity of a conductor. It may result from overload (see definition), short circuit, or ground fault. A current in excess of rating may be accommodated by certain equipment and conductors for a given set of conditions. Hence the rules for overcurrent protection are specific for particular situations.
- (75) **“Overload.”** Operation of equipment in excess of normal, full load rating, or of a conductor in excess of rated ampacity which, when it persists for a sufficient length of time, would cause damage or dangerous overheating. A fault, such as a short circuit or ground fault, is not an overload. (See “overcurrent.”)
- (76) **“Panelboard.”** A single panel or group of panel units designed for assembly in the form of a single panel; including buses, automatic overcurrent devices, and with or without switches for the control of light, heat, or power circuits; designed to be placed in a cabinet or cutout box placed in or against a wall or partition and accessible only from the front. (See “switchboard.”)
- (77) **“Portable x-ray.”** X-ray equipment designed to be hand-carried.
- (78) **“Power fuse.”** (Over 600 volts, nominal.) See “fuse.”
- (79) **“Power outlet.”** An enclosed assembly which may include receptacles, circuit breakers, fuseholders, fused switches, buses and watt-hour meter mounting means; intended to serve as a means for distributing power required to operate mobile or temporarily installed equipment.
- (80) **“Premises wiring system.”** That interior and exterior wiring, including power, lighting, control, and signal circuit wiring together with all of its associated hardware, fittings, and wiring devices, both permanently and temporarily installed, which extends from the load end of the service drop, or load end of the service lateral conductors to the outlet(s). Such wiring does not include wiring internal to appliances, fixtures, motors, controllers, motor control centers, and similar equipment.
- (81) **“Qualified person.”** One familiar with the construction and operation of the equipment and the hazards involved.
- (82) **“Qualified testing laboratory.”** A properly equipped and staffed testing laboratory which has capabilities for and which provides the following services:

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- (a) Experimental testing for safety of specified items of equipment and materials referred to in this standard to determine compliance with appropriate test standards or performance in a specified manner;
  - (b) Inspecting the run of such items of equipment and materials at factories for product evaluation to assure compliance with the test standards;
  - (c) Service-value determinations through field inspections to monitor the proper use of labels on products and with authority for recall of the label in the event a hazardous product is installed;
  - (d) Employing a controlled procedure for identifying the listed and/or labeled equipment or materials tested; and
  - (e) Rendering creditable reports or findings that are objective and without bias of the tests and test methods employed.
- (83) **“Raceway.”** A channel designed expressly for holding wires, cables, or busbars, with additional functions as permitted in this part. Raceways may be of metal or insulating material, and the term includes rigid metal conduit, rigid nonmetallic conduit, intermediate metal conduit, liquidtight flexible metal conduit, flexible metallic tubing, flexible metal conduit, electrical metallic tubing, underfloor raceways, cellular concrete floor raceways, cellular metal floor raceways, surface raceways, wireways, and busways.
- (84) **“Readily accessible.”** Capable of being reached quickly for operation, renewal, or inspections, without requiring those to whom ready access is requisite to climb over or remove obstacles or to resort to portable ladders, chairs, etc. (See “accessible.”)
- (85) **“Receptacle.”** A receptacle is a contact device installed at the outlet for the connection of a single attachment plug. A single receptacle is a single contact device with no other contact device on the same yoke. A multiple receptacle is a single device containing two or more receptacles.
- (86) **“Receptacle outlet.”** An outlet where one or more receptacles are installed.
- (87) **“Remote-control circuit.”** Any electric circuit that controls any other circuit through a relay or an equivalent device.
- (88) **“Sealable equipment.”** Equipment enclosed in a case or cabinet that is provided with a means of sealing or locking so that live parts cannot be made accessible without opening the enclosure. The equipment may or may not be operable without opening the enclosure.
- (89) **“Separately derived system.”** A premises wiring system whose power is derived from generator, transformer, or converter windings and has no direct electrical connection, including a solidly connected grounded circuit conductor, to supply conductors originating in another system.
- (90) **“Service.”** The conductors and equipment for delivering energy from the electricity supply system to the wiring system of the premises served.
- (91) **“Service conductors.”** The supply conductors that extend from the street main or from transformers to the service equipment of the premises supplied.

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- (92) **“Service drop.”** The overhead service conductors from the last pole or other aerial support to and including the splices, if any, connecting to the service-entrance conductors at the building or other structure.
- (93) **“Service-entrance conductors, overhead system.”** The service conductors between the terminals of the service equipment and a point usually outside the building, clear of building walls, where joined by tap or splice to the service drop.
- (94) **“Service-entrance conductors, underground system.”** The service conductors between the terminals of the service equipment and the point of connection to the service lateral. Where service equipment is located outside the building walls, there may be no service-entrance conductors, or they may be entirely outside the building.
- (95) **“Service equipment.”** The necessary equipment, usually consisting of a circuit breaker or switch and fuses, and their accessories, located near the point of entrance of supply conductors to a building or other structure, or an otherwise defined area, and intended to constitute the main control and means of cutoff of the supply.
- (96) **“Service raceway.”** The raceway that encloses the service-entrance conductors.
- (97) **“Shock hazard.”** To exist at an accessible part in a circuit between the part and ground, or other accessible parts if the potential is more than 42.4 volts peak and the current through a 1,500-ohm load is more than 5 milliamperes.
- (98) **“Signaling circuit.”** Any electric circuit that energizes signaling equipment.
- (99) **“Switchboard.”** A large single panel, frame, or assembly of panels which have switches, buses, instruments, overcurrent and other protective devices mounted on the face or back or both. Switchboards are generally accessible from the rear as well as from the front and are not intended to be installed in cabinets. (See “panelboard.”)
- (100) **“Switches.”**
  - (a) **General-use switch.** A switch intended for use in general distribution and branch circuits. It is rated in amperes, and it is capable of interrupting its rated current at its rated voltage.
  - (b) **General-use snap switch.** A form of general-use switch so constructed that it can be installed in flush device boxes or on outlet box covers, or otherwise used in conjunction with wiring systems recognized by this part.
  - (c) **Isolating switch.** A switch intended for isolating an electric circuit from the source of power. It has no interrupting rating, and it is intended to be operated only after the circuit has been opened by some other means.
  - (d) **Motor-circuit switch.** A switch, rated in horsepower, capable of interrupting the maximum operating overload current of a motor of the same horsepower rating as the switch at the rated voltage.

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- (101) **“Switching devices.”** (Over 600 volts, nominal.) Devices designed to close and/or open one or more electric circuits. Included in this category are circuit breakers, cutouts, disconnecting (or isolating) switches, disconnecting means, and interrupter switches.
- (102) **“Transformer.”** A transformer is an apparatus for converting electrical power in an a-c system at one voltage or current into electrical power at some other voltage or current without the use of rotating parts.
- (103) **“Transportable x-ray.”** X-ray equipment installed in a vehicle or that may readily be disassembled for transport in a vehicle.
- (104) **“Utilization equipment.”** Utilization equipment means equipment which utilizes electric energy for mechanical, chemical, heating, lighting, or similar useful purpose.
- (105) **“Utilization system.”** A utilization system is a system which provides electric power and light for employee workplaces, and includes the premises wiring system and utilization equipment.
- (106) **“Ventilated.”** Provided with a means to permit circulation of air sufficient to remove an excess of heat, fumes, or vapors.
- (107) **“Volatile flammable liquid.”** A flammable liquid having a flash point below 38°C (100°F) or whose temperature is above its flash point, or a Class II combustible liquid having a vapor pressure not exceeding 40 psia (276 kPa) at 38°C (100°F) whose temperature is above its flash point.
- (108) **“Voltage.”** (Of a circuit.) The greatest root-mean-square (effective) difference of potential between any two conductors of the circuit concerned.
- (109) **“Voltage, nominal.”** A nominal value assigned to a circuit or system for the purpose of conveniently designating its voltage class (as 120/240, 480Y/277, 600, etc.). The actual voltage at which a circuit operates can vary from the nominal within a range that permits satisfactory operation of equipment.
- (110) **“Voltage to ground.”** For grounded circuits, the voltage between the given conductor and that point or conductor of the circuit that is grounded; for ungrounded circuits, the greatest voltage between the given conductor and any other conductor of the circuit.
- (111) **“Watertight.”** So constructed that moisture will not enter the enclosure.
- (112) **“Weatherproof.”** So constructed or protected that exposure to the weather will not interfere with successful operation. Rainproof, raintight, or watertight equipment can fulfill the requirements for weatherproof where varying weather conditions other than wetness, such as snow, ice, dust, or temperature extremes, are not a factor.
- (113) **“Wet location.”** See “location.”

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